Hafa Adai!

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Insurance firm, owner, investor sue Grey, Gregory. PAGE 3

Water Task Force gets $750,000 grant. PAGE 8

Long before sale, Rota Resort owners sought DPL's help

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

As early as June this year, the owners of the Rota Resort and Country Club urged the Department of Public Lands to help them close a deal to sell the 600-acre complex, a crucial element in the health of the island's struggling tourism industry, in order to keep it open.

In a June 6 letter to Public Lands Secretary John S. Del Rosario, a copy of which was obtained by the *Saipan Tribune*, Michinori Matsumura, executive president of SNM Corp., the resort's previous

See LONG on Page 4

School delay costs PSS $13K

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The delayed opening in September of four schools costs the Public School System more than $13,000.

Sablan

PSS Education Commissioner Rita Sablan yesterday said the school district lost $13,625 when Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared a state of emergency for four schools—Koblerville Elementary,

See SCHOOL on Page 4

PSS, CUC *sit down to discuss* $1.8M *debt*

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Officials from the Public School System are meeting with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muña today to discuss the school system's more than $1 million in overdue debt.

PSS records obtained by the *Saipan Tribune* via the Open Government Act show the school system owes at least $1.2 million in past debt because PSS has failed to pay its utility bills since April.

See PSS on Page 4

PATRIOT'S DAY CLEANUP ANGELO VILLAGOMEZ

A Beautify CNMI volunteer pitches in during the Patriot's Day cleanup held in Chalan Kanoa, while a fisherman behind him checks out the best spot to fish.

FDA urged to recall cold medicines for youngsters

ON THE NET

Food and Drug Administration background: http://tinyurl.com/3emy54

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—With a new cold season coming, the government is trying once more to decide what to do about over-the-counter medicines for kids' coughs and sniffles. Doctors question the drugs' benefits and worry

See FDA on Page 4

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Did you register to vote in the upcoming CNMI delegate election?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

3 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Second Life
After one spectacular failure, the $700 billion financial bailout found a second life, winning lopsided passage in the Senate.

BUSINESS...Page 22

Art of Writing
Francine Prose has thought a lot about writing in the 35 years and she thinks it can't be taught.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 30

Local

Senate passes bill to revive public lands board

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The CNMI Senate passed legislation Thursday that aims to put control over local public land in the hands of a board of directors rather than an appointed secretary, a change that is sure to see opposition by Gov. Benigno Fitial.

The Senate approved SB 16-42 in an 8 to 0 vote with one abstention and the legislation is now set to come before House lawmakers soon. Its sponsor, Sen. Jude Hofschnieder (R-Tinian), said the bill would bring much needed reform to the Department of Public Lands, which he added has become slow and unresponsive on critical issues like homesteading and commercial land leasing.

Moreover, he said the legislation would lend a higher level of transparency to DPL's decision-making.

"To have a level playing field and to have fairness, people need to have a say so on our public lands," he said.

The legislation would establish a board of directors appointed by the governor with Senate approval, composed of members from Tinian, Rota, and Saipan. The board would hold the power to manage public lands, with its members serving two-year terms. Hofschnieder said the legislation comes after DPL, among other issues, has seen little progress on its mandate to address requests for homesteads.

"On the land compensation issue, the homestead issue, these things have remained stagnant since the establishment of that department," he said. "Every 18-year-old of Northern Marianas descent is qualified to have a homestead but there hasn't been issuance of them. For every year you let those qualified applicants wait, they just keep piling up."

However, Gov. Benigno Fitial will likely seek to dissuade House lawmakers from passing the bill, according to his spokesman, Charles Reyes. In an interview, Reyes pointed to instances of corruption under the Marianas Public Lands Authority, the board that once managed public lands prior to legislation that put control of them in the hands of DPL's chief.

"As many people in the Commonwealth know, the MPLA was notorious for abuses and corruption," he said, noting the exorbitant travel expenses and salaries the board racked up during its time. "We cleaned things up and removed the board. I don't understand why anyone would want to reverse this progress."

Reyes stopped short of saying whether Fitial would veto the bill if it reached his desk, adding only that the governor would likely try to "talk to" lawmakers on the issue.

...as House fails to overturn veto on DPL bill

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives yesterday failed to override the governor's veto of a bill creating a deputy secretary of the Department of Public Lands for Rota and Tinian.

The Senate has previously voted to override the veto, but supporters of the bill failed to muster enough votes in the Lower House to pass the legislation over the governor's opposition. The vote was 12-6. The House needed 13 votes to override.

The bill proposed to establish a DPL deputy secretary to be appointed by the mayors of Rota and Tinian.

Proponents of the bill say it is important to ensure Rota and Tinian's interests are protected whenever DPL takes any action related to public lands in the two islands. "There are DPL transactions that are going unchecked by the local leadership," said Rota Rep. Victor Hocog, who favored the bill.

But Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other opponents of the bill believe that certain provisions of the bill may conflict with the CNMI Constitution. Rep. Tina Sablan, one of the six lawmakers who voted to uphold the governor's veto, said the bill's proposal to create a position "that is funded by DPL, but not answerable to DPL" is questionable.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider echoed her statement, pointing to the constitutional provision that restricts the use of DPL income to the department's own administrative costs and investment by the Marianas Public Land Trust.

In addition to Sablan and Hofschneider, the lawmakers who voted against the override are Representatives Francisco Dela Cruz, Raymond Palacios, Edward Salas, and Stanley Torres. Rep. Justo Quitugua abstained from the vote, and Rep. Ray Yumul was absent. All of the other members voted for the override.

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Airport crewmembers load cargo on a Northwest Airline aircraft before departure at Japan's Narita International Airport.
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The House of Representatives
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P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Date: September 30, 2008 Contact: Representative Joseph C. Reyes
Telephone: (670) 664-8836
Facsimile: (670) 664-8838

The House Standing Committee on Commerce and Tourism would like to solicit comments from the general public on House Bill 16-140 "To repeal and reenact 5 CMC to provide for a modernization and update of the CNMI Uniform Commercial Code, and for other purposes".

Copies of the legislation may be obtained from the following places:

1. Request to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes
2. It may be viewed at www.camachocnmi.com under Legislative Bills, H.B. 16-140.
3. Request for digital copy via email to rep.jcreyes@gmail.com

Members of the general public are encouraged to submit written testimony on or before October 29, 2008. To submit written testimony, please drop-off or fax to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes (664-8838) or may be mailed to P.O. Box 500586 Saipan, MP 96950. You can also submit your digital copies to rep.jcreyes@gmail.com.

For additional information, you may contact the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes.

Rep. Joseph C. Reyes
Chairman

Insurance firm, owner, investor sue Grey, Gregory

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An insurance company and its owner have sued Division of Immigration chief Melvin Grey, former Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory, and the CNMI government for allegedly denying a visitor's entry permit to a Fujian, China, resident who was reportedly planning to invest in the CNMI.

Royal Crown Insurance Corp. and its owner, Cheong Pui Ng, have indicated their sponsorship and support for Wen Qing Wang.

Ng described Wang as his business associate who would like to invest on Saipan.

Wang joined Royal Crown Insurance and Ng as plaintiffs in their lawsuit against Grey, Gregory, and CNMI government.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to contact Grey for comments. Gregory is no longer the attorney general.

The complainants, through lawyer Joe Hill, asked the Superior Court to declare that Wang is entitled to be considered for a visitor's entry permit. The plaintiffs also asked the court to declare Wang's right to have a visitor permit for business.

Hill stated in the complaint that Wang first lawfully entered the CNMI in 1998 and had lawfully resided at all times since then. She departed Saipan in 2006.

Hill said that, in February 2008 his clients paid the required filing fee and filed with Immigration a visitor entry permit application for Wang.

Royal Crown and Ng also filed an "affidavit of sponsorship and support company sponsor" and a complete package of all necessary and required documents for consideration and issuance of a visitors entry permit/application."

Hill said the defendants did not notify plaintiffs that the package of documents were deficient in number, form, content or execution, as required by the Immigration Regulations.

By a letter dated March 27, 2008, Gregory denied the request for a visitor's entry permit.

Gregory stated that "Section 804 of the Immigration Regulations and Rules published in accordance with the regulations prohibit entry into the Commonwealth from certain excluded locations, including Fujian Province. These regulations are intended to protect the Commonwealth from persons who enter our borders and then violate the conditions of their entry."

Hill said his clients requested reconsideration of the denial.

The plaintiffs' ground is that "any alien legally in the Commonwealth on the effective date of the regulation, provided such alien remains continuously in legal status, such alien may freely depart and return to the Commonwealth subject to compliance with other applicable law and regulation."

Gregory denied the request for reconsideration.

The denial letter pointed out that, while Wang was previously admitted as a foreign guest worker, that prior admission does not create any right to re-entry. "I have determined, as did the previous AG, that persons from Fujian Province, China should be denied entry," Gregory had said in the letter.

But Hill asserted that Wang is not a threat to public safety.

From the date of her entry, Hill noted, Wang was always legally and lawfully in the CNMI from 1998 until 2006.

The lawyer said Wang was lawfully residing on Saipan on Feb. 17, 2005, when Section 804 of the regulations became effective.

Section 804 refers to discontinuance of entry permits due to threat to public safety.

Hill said the language of Section 804.D is clear and plain on its face in providing that an alien who meets the stated exemption conditions "…may freely depart and return to the Commonwealth."

"Wang now desires and seeks to return to the Commonwealth under and pursuant to Section 804D.4," he said.

Hill stressed that as indicated on the face of the VEP application form, Wang now desires and request approval and issuance of a visitor's entry permit, allowing her to enter the CNMI for the purpose of negotiating and finalizing a business transaction and investment.

He said the Attorney General's expressed sentiment and observation that "while Ms. Wang professes to intend to invest on Saipan, there appears to be no firm investment planned, but this is merely a scouting trip for a possible investment."

Hill said this observation is "at once misplaced and of course, speculative and pre-judgmental to the extent it presupposes submission and or approval of a business plan prior to approval of precedent VEP application form."

"Wang now simply requests the opportunity to return to the CNMI pursuant to her VEP application form, so that she may work out the details of her intended business investment/venture; then prepare and submit her detailed business investment plan," he said.

"Ng and the group of corporations and businesses that he has developed and been associated with in the CNMI have contributed, through their expertise and business acumen, enormously to the viability and vitality of local business industry and economy for many years," the lawyer added.

AGO prosecutes 2 for bad checks

The Attorney General's Office has filed criminal cases against two persons who were among three suspects arrested in July for allegedly stealing and forging several checks.

Barbie Ann B. Borja was charged with two counts of issuing bad checks, while Milton B. Camacho was charged with one count. Both were summoned to appear and answer the charges in the Superior Court on Oct. 20 at 9am.

Assistant Attorney General Joseph Taijeron stated in the information that on April 4, 2008 Borja issued a $389.76 check to CYA Store in Koblerville under a closed account of Let's Go Diving Corp.

Taijeron said that on June 12, 2008, Borja issued another rubber check in the amount of $378.78 under the account of Freedom Inc.

With respect to Camacho, the defendant allegedly issued a back check in the amount of $369.73 under the account of Freedom Inc.

Last July, police arrested Borja, Camacho, and Zenita B. Cabrera for allegedly stealing and forging several checks from a company.

Detective Vincent K. Basa stated in his report that on June 18, 2008, a person disclosed that Borja and Cabrera broke into an establishment behind the former Arizona Sports Bar in Susupe and stole some company checks.

Basa said two days later, the owner of Freedom Inc., reported to the police that a bank employee called him about some of the company's checks that the bank had received.

The bank employee told the businessman that his account is no longer active.

Police further investigation allegedly revealed that the three defendants were involved in the stealing of checks and had cashed them at some stores on Saipan.

Borja and Cabrera are under probation, while Camacho has a rap sheet involving various criminal and drug related offenses, police said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Boy Scout program to return to Tinian

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Boy Scout program is going to be resurrected on Tinian after four leaders complete their training this week.

Scout leader Al J. Cabael said he is pleased Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas is behind bringing back the Scout program, which died down about two years ago.

Jose P. Kiyoshi, Tano King, Kurt King and Terence Aquininguc have come to Saipan this week to learn about the mission and goals of the program.

"We're so happy these guys appear to be totally committed," Cabael said.

Twenty-two applications have already been submitted to join the program and another 15 will soon be returned, Cabael added.

He said once the training is over the leaders can begin the scouting program.

"They're now able to proceed with the program because they understand the program and how they fit in and what is expected of them and what our mission in scouting is," Cabael said.

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest youth organization in the United States. There are more than five million members. Since the organization's founding in 1910 as part of the international Scout Movement, more than 110 million Americans have been members of the BSA.

Tano King and Kurt King listen as Al Cabael discusses the process of Skylar Brown becoming an Eagle Scout.

KRISTI EATON

S.T.a.R Marianas owners settle dispute

The legal dispute among owners of S.T.a.R. Marianas Inc. has been settled.

Under the settlement, both plaintiffs Jose T. Seman and Mitsuru Wakatsugi and defendants Hiromi Yukino and S.T.a.R. Marianas Inc. admit no wrongdoing. The parties also acknowledged no liability to each other.

The parties concluded that a settlement of the dispute between them "is in their respective best interests."

Seman and Wakatsugi filed claims against Yukino and S.T.a.R. Marianas Inc. in the Superior Court last year.

The Superior Court dismissed the case, but allowed the plaintiffs to re-file their complaints.

The parties, however, settled the case.

Pursuant to the agreement, Seman would transfer his shares of S.T.a.R. Marianas to the corporation (S.T.a.R) for a total of $43,500 to be paid in installments.

Wakatsugi would also tranfer his shares of S.T.a.R Marianas to the corporation for a total of $39,000, to be paid in installments.

To secure payment, S.T.a.R. Marianas agrees to convey to Seman and Wakatsugi a security interest in equipment used by S.T.a.R Marians in its manufacturing and delivery process, equivalent to the total value of any payments remaining due and owing under their agreement. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NEW BRIEFS

Tudela sets proclamation signing

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela will sign a proclamation on Monday, Oct. 6, 2008, to designate the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month in the Municipality of Saipan.

The proclamation will be held in the conference room of the Saipan Mayor's Office in San Antonio at 10am.

Tudela acknowledges that the arts and humanities affect every aspect of life in America today including the economy, social problem solving, job creation, education creativity, and community livability.

Everyone is invited to come and witness the signing of this proclamation.

John Oliver Gonzales forums set

The Committee to Elect John Oliver Gonzales for Delegate to US Congress will be hosting a series of forums to enable the community to meet with the candidate. The forums will be held on:

- Oct. 4, 10am to 12pm, Lali 4, Chalan Kanoa
- Oct. 18, 10am to 12pm, Garapan Central Park, Garapan
- Oct. 25, 10am to 12pm,Tanapag Social Hall, Tanapag

FDA

From Page 1

about their risks.

Pediatricians are urging the Food and Drug Administration, which scheduled a public hearing Thursday on the issue, to demand a recall of the medicines for children younger than 6.

"Parents should know that there is less evidence than ever to support the use of over-the-counter cough and cold medicines for young children," said Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Baltimore's health commissioner. "There is nothing that is holding the FDA back from asking for a voluntary recall now of products marketed to kids under 6."

U.S. families spend at least $286 million a year on such cough and cold remedies for children, according to the Nielsen Co. market research firm. In any given week the medicines are used by an estimated 10 percent of all children, with the biggest exposure among 2- to 5-year-olds, a recent Boston University report found.

But colds usually clear up on their own after a few days. Many doctors say rest and plenty of fluids are what it takes to get over a cold.

The FDA this year warned against giving OTC cold medicines to children younger than 2. At that time, officials said they expected to decide by spring on recommendations for youngsters up to 11. Now the agency is seeking more advice from doctors, industry and consumers.

The industry says OTC medicines have been used for decades in treating kids' colds and are safe for those older than 2. Nonetheless, manufacturers are carrying out new studies involving the most common ingredients in the medications. The companies voluntarily stopped selling cough and cold medicines for babies and toddlers last fall.

FDA advisers said that was not enough and recommended that the drugs not be used for children younger than 6. An expert panel said older children could keep taking the medications while studies are undertaken to settle scientific questions about safety and effectiveness.

It turns out that when the FDA set standards for cough and cold medicines some 30 years ago, no separate studies were done for kids.

Cough and cold medicines send about 7,000 children to hospital emergency rooms each year with symptoms ranging from hives and drowsiness to unsteady walking. Low doses of a medicine are not likely to cause a problem; the main risk comes from unintentional overdoses.

The same ingredients usually are found in different products. For example, giving a child a cough syrup and a decongestant could inadvertently lead to an overdose.

The Consumer Healthcare Products Association, which represents the manufacturers, says preventable errors are the problem, not the safety of the ingredients in the medicines. The industry is starting an educational campaign aimed at parents, doctors and day care providers on the importance of following directions and storing medicines in places where kids cannot get at them.

But Sharfstein said Maryland saw an immediate benefit after OTC cough and cold remedies for tots were removed from store shelves last fall. Calls to poison control about problems with the medicines involving children younger than 2 dropped by 40 percent, from 99 to 60, in the first six months of this year when compared with 2007. Calls involving children 2 to 6 also dropped, but by much less.

SCHOOL

From Page 1

Oleai Headstart, Marianas High School and Kagman Elementary—because the water samples from the schools did not come back in time for the start of classes.

Fitial had asked the Department of Public Health to form a task force to check the preparedness of the schools in light of the island's blackouts at the time. DEQ tested the water at all schools, but tests for the four schools were not back in time for the opening.

Fitial informed Sablan and the Board of Education about his executive decision to postpone the opening on the night of Sept. 7—the day before school was to start.

Because the school district was not informed about Fitial's decision until the night before, food vendors continued to prepare meals, Sablan said. Vendors must be given 24 hours notice in order to cease preparation. The meals costs the district $6,625 for the two days.

PSS also had to pay personnel $7,000 for the work they performed during the two days they were preparing for the water tests, Sablan said. Personnel worked on Sept. 6 and 7, a Saturday and Sunday, trying to prepare the schools for the tests.

The closure also brought to light the fact that the Bureau of Environmental Health had not issued the required sanitation permits to 22 schools.

Under normal circumstances, BEH can recommend to the Secretary of Public Health to close an establishment, but because there were no permits, the Department of Public Health recommended that Fitial use his authority to delay the opening.

At yesterday's Board of Education meeting, Sablan said inspectors from BEH had completed initial inspections of the affected schools. Three schools—Gregorio T. Camacho, Garapan and Tanapag elementary schools—have some "minor clean-up" and must prove a certificate of authenticity before they can purchase the $130 permit, Sablan said.

PSS

From Page 1

Muña has repeatedly said PSS owes the utility company $1.8 million. The money, along with $1.6 million that the central government owes, is going to help pay for the $6 million emergency Aggreko generators. A payment of $504,000 is due to Aggreko in one week.

PSS acting finance director Lori Grizzard and Education Commissioner Rita Sablan repeatedly said the school district did not owe any money to CUC because school administrators found discrepancies between the school's meter readings and CUC's meter reading. PSS is questioning the billing of $300,000 on top of the $1.2 million that CUC has billed them.

Altogether, PSS paid CUC $2,473,551.91 for fiscal year 2008, not including the month of September. This amount includes $1.6 million that was reallocated from the system's personnel and "all others" budget.

At yesterday's Board of Education meeting, Sablan said she and other PSS officials are going to discuss the discrepancies with Muña this morning.

"We will go to CUC tomorrow and say 'Tony, take it off,'" Sablan told members of the board.

"This is ridiculous. They're dealing with kids. Why are they so mean?" BOE member Herman Guerrero said of CUC.

Board member Galvin DL Guerrero asked what would happen if Muña refuses to change the billing.

"Are we ready to go to court on this? I think we should be," he said.

Other members of the board said it was premature to talk of lawsuits.

According to PSS records, the system owes a balance of:

- $42,433.81 for the month of April;
- $323,536.72 for the month of May;
- $370,885.18 for the month of June;
- $313,707.02 for the month of July; and
- $141,726.61 for the month of August.

LONG

From Page 1

owner, wrote that he had engaged in a "stock purchase agreement" to transfer "100%" of his company's shares in the resort to Rota Resort, LLC, its new owner—a branch of the Guam-based firm JMSH LLC. Rota Resort LLC took control of the resort in August, according to its management.

Matsumura asked in the letter for DPL's "immediate assistance and cooperation to help assure the economic viability" of the resort, adding the transaction "must be closed urgently by July" and that under the conditions of its government lease, his company needed the department's approval.

"Unless by July, 2008, this transfer is closed to have the new sponsor infused [sic] the new money, RRCC will find itself in short of operating money only to face the closing of RRRC," the letter said.

Moreover, the letter pointed to a recently begun deal to bring chartered airline service to Rota from Japan, which the resort initiated through its business partners, saying that the flights could not take place if the resort closed.

The letter appears to undermine language in a recently issued order by the CNMI Attorney General's Office that said government officials were merely aware of a "proposal" to sell the resort. The order, released earlier this month, pointed to a recent article in the *Saipan Tribune* on the sale and said that if the report is accurate, the resort's new owners failed to obtain government approval before buying it and might be trespassing on public lands.

The order adds that if this is the case, the new owners must vacate the property. Del Rosario and other DPL officials were not immediately available for comment on the letter at press time.

However, Sen. Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said the letter is a clear indication that DPL was aware of the deal long before it was complete.

"They cannot now pretend that the new company is not there in good faith," he said in an interview.

The future success of Rota's struggling tourism economy, he added, is largely tied to the survival of the resort and the plans its new owners have to draw tourists to the island through chartered flight deals.

"The last thing anyone expected was for this administration to write a letter to a major investor on Rota telling him to shut down," he said. "Where is the fairness in this?"

Charles Reyes, spokesman for Gov. Benigno Fitial, previously said the intent behind the Attorney General's Office order was simply to enforce the law.

Bateman takes marketing role at the MVA

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Bruce Bateman, a 30-year veteran of the marketing business, has taken a new job as the Marianas Visitors Authority's marketing manager at a time when tourism officials are eyeing some new locales to promote the CNMI as a travel destination. One hint: think "down under."

MVA has lacked a marketing manager since the departure of Bateman's predecessor, Wayne Pangelinan, more than nine months ago, a vacancy that came amid the office's efforts to revive the CNMI's tourism industry after a noticeable downturn. Yet with visitor arrivals numbers suggesting tourism here might be the path towards a slow recovery, Bateman says there is reason for optimism.

"I'm bullish about this," he said. "Yeah, tourism has been down but only by about 20 percent and we're looking forward to bringing it back to a level around where it was a few years ago, if not higher."

The arrival of new charter flights to Saipan from Shanghai, a similar deal in the works to draw flights from Russia and the

Bateman

recently unveiled plan to construct a new resort on the north end of the island, he added, are signs this could be possible.

However, a key obstacle might be the pending federal takeover of local immigration rules and the establishment of a joint Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, which will let foreign visitors from pre-approved nations enter the country without a visa.

Tourism officials have long said this program could prove problematic if the federal officials crafting it forego the inclusion of Russia and China, two vital markets for the CNMI. Bateman said this prospect puts added urgency on MVA's efforts in those nations ahead of the program's start.

"We're going to work those markets until we're told to stop," he said, adding that MVA has put together "escape plans" to adopt if the program blocks access to major markets. "But, without question, that is completely out of our hands."

Yet those escape plans—which he said will go ahead with or without new visa limits on the tourism industry—hold the potential to open a completely new tourism market in the CNMI: Australia and New Zealand, he said.

"Well, it has to be in places that are within a reasonable flying distance and have a large enough middle class who can afford to travel here," he said. "Australia, New Zealand, they would fit that description"

Recent political turmoil in places like Bali, Indonesia, a common destination for Australian travelers, could give the CNMI an edge when it comes to competing for tourist dollars, he added.

Lawmakers back down on lifting veto on salary caps

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Senate and House of Representatives yesterday withdrew attempts to override the governor's veto of a bill on government salary caps.

Both houses of the Legislature, in separate sessions, considered whether to pass the measure, which would remove the salary ceiling for medical professionals. But the lawmakers suspended action on the bill after it was pointed out that an add-on provision could result in salary cuts for some professionals at the Legislature and the Judiciary, instead of allowing for pay increases.

Under the bill, medical professionals, attorneys, accountants, engineers, and architects working in government would be exempted from the salary cap of $50,000 a year. In addition, the bill would allow unspecified professionals working at the Legislature and the Judiciary to receive up to $60,000 a year.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed the bill, saying its language was "too broad and too vague." He urged the Legislature to develop a more targeted definition of "professionals" under the Legislative and Judicial branches, "in view of our scarce and limited ability to provide higher employee compensation."

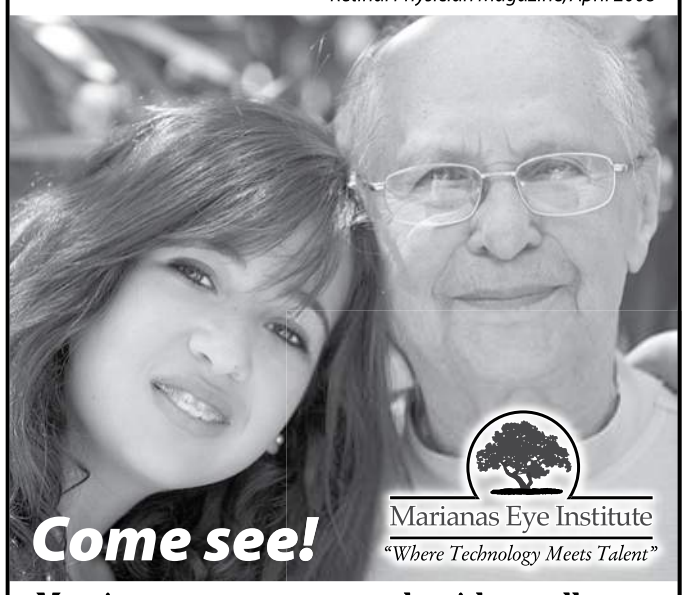
The override attempts were to be the Legislature's response to the governor's state of emergency declaration for the in-house pharmacy at the Commonwealth Health Center. The pharmacy is on the brink of closure due to the lack of pharmacists on duty. The government has been unable to attract licensed pharmacists to work at CHC because it cannot offer a salary over the $50,000 cap, which is too low compared with the market value for licensed pharmacists. The bill would have addressed this problem.

However, several employees, particularly attorneys, at the Legislature and the Judiciary lobbied the lawmakers to uphold the governor's veto for a separate reason. They are now making over $60,000 a year, and by capping the salary at that level, the bill would force a pay cut against them.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider offered a different interpretation of the bill. He said the $60,000 cap does not apply to attorneys, as they are already covered by the exemption. The $60,000 cap only applies for other professionals at the Legislature and the Judiciary who are not specifically mentioned in the exemption list, he argued.

Yet, the lawmakers agreed to take no action on the veto, and to introduce a new bill.

"One of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region"
— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008



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Santos couple also get deadline extension

The federal court has also granted Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez's co-defendants new request to give them an extension on the deadline to file pre-trial motions.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson allowed former Commerce Secretary James Santos and his wife Joaquina Villagomez Santos to file pre-trial motions on or before Nov. 10, 2008.

Munson granted such request after the Santos couple and the U.S. government asked for another extension to file the pre-trial motions.

On Aug. 22, 2008, the court approved a stipulation to extend the deadline to Sept. 22, 2008.

But on Sept. 17, 2008, the Santos couple waived their right to a speedy trial. This prompted the court to set a new trial date, March 23, 2009.

The Santos couple, through their respective lawyers, asserted that they need additional time to review the voluminous documents already provided.

The couple also anticipated more documents to be provided by the prosecution.

The deadline for Lt. Gov. Villagomez to file pre-trial motions was also set no later than Nov. 10, 2008. It was the third time that the deadline was moved.

The original deadline was for Aug. 25, 2008.

Villagomez, James Santos, Joaquina Santos, and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero were indicted with conspiring to bilk CUC out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless chemical purchases for CUC.

Villagomez and the Santos couple pleaded not guilty. Guerrero signed a plea agreement and entered a guilty plea. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PTI helped connect Tinian's Untalan during conventions

PTI teamed up with the pride of Tinian High School to help put the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas on the map in a big way when Junior Statesman Marisa Untalan attended both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions.

Sixteen-year-old Untalan applied for a summer school scholarship at Stanford University and was subsequently accepted at the end of 2007. When she left for the U.S. mainland this summer, Untalan was able to include trips to Denver, Colorado, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, to attend both of conventions.

While enjoying her scholarship, Untalan kept in contact with friends and family back home on Tinian with a cellular phone and long distance cards provided by PTI, but the CNMI's youngest delegate to the conventions also played a larger role when calling the Marianas.

PTI marketing associate Brad Ruszala poses with Tinian High School's Marisa Untalan after her recent trip to the U.S. mainland, where she attended the Republican and Democratic national conventions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Untalan used her PTI phone and long distance cards to call into KSPN2 and gave live reports from the conventions that gave the CNMI's citizens a first-hand account of all of the election season action.

"It was a new experience and I'm glad I got the chance to do it," said Untalan.

Untalan said that she was able to meet with many Washington VIPs including former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee (R) and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney (R), as well as with her peers from the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the mainland.

Her father and mother, John and Gladyz Untalan, were very proud of their daughter's ambition. They said they know Marisa enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime experience and thanked PTI for providing the phone and the airtime that made it possible.

"It's fantastic and we're so proud of her and we really appreciate that PTI allowed her to have this opportunity. It was kind of a big request but we thought we'd give it a try. We're very thankful to PTI and it's a great community service that you gave to our daughter and we really appreciate it," said John Untalan.

PTI regional marketing manager Kathryn Barry said that the donation was part of PTI's longstanding commitment to the youth of the CNMI.

"PTI is always happy to support a student as hardworking and as driven as Marisa. When her family approached us with her idea to report on the conventions it was an easy decision. She did a wonderful job and we're all proud of her accomplishments," she said. ***(PTI)***

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask for your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheets 13 (Navy Hill), 19 (As Terlaje), 20 (Susupe), 24 (Chalan Kanoa), and 27 (Koblerville).

A public hearing will be held:

Date:	**Wednesday, November 05, 2008**
Time:	**6:00 pm**
Place:	**Zoning Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan**

The proposed map changes may be viewed at
Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:00 pm, Thursday, November 06, 2008. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Palau Independence Day Celebration
Live on Stage
KNT Band (Kelau Remeliik, Neil Fisher, Tailahalaha Rudolph) direct from Palau, B2B w/ Rock Islanders
Show starts: 9pm to 2pm
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Public invited to join 2nd annual Rosary Rally

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Escolastica Cabrera, Saipan's captain of the America Needs Fatima organization, is inviting the public to join the second annual Public Square Rosary Rally on Oct. 11 in commemoration of the 91st Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's apparition.

The rosary rally will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base Ground starting at noon.

The activity will be a follow-up to the first Holy Rosary rally that was held last year.

Cabrera and her daughter, Olinka Chaudhry, had just arrived from Topeka, Kansas, where they completed a week-long volunteering service to increase rosary rallies around the world.

The volunteering service should have lasted two weeks but Cabrera had to return and attend the just concluded Chamorro Conference on Saipan as one of the guest speakers.

Cabrera explained that it was on Oct. 11, 1917, when the image of the Lady of Fatima appeared on the horizon at exactly 12pm in Fatima, Portugal.

"I am inviting everyone in the community, Catholic and non-Catholic to attend. On that day, we join one another to pray for the Holy Rosary," Cabrera said.

She said everybody must come with open hearts to pray for peace because the future is clouded by terrorism, depression, suicide, crime, corruption and broken families.

"God's law is transgressed. Blasphemy is rampant," Cabrera noted in a statement to the public.

She said that at Fatima, Portugal, the Mother of God asked everyone to pray the rosary, do penance, and "amend our lives but we did not really listen."

Cabrera urged the public to start a new moral crusade and join the Rosary campaign.

"We have to remember that "there will be no peace in our lives or in society unless we honor God and obey His law," she said.

"This prayer rally is the Blessed Mother calling and it's a worldwide rosary campaign," she said.

The activity will be coordinated nationally by the Tradition Family Property and its America Needs Fatima campaign.

For more information, contact Cabrera at (670) 322-2833 or email; chamoru1958@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Olinka Chaudry from Saipan; Patricia Bascom from Bolton, CT; Escolastica Cabrera, seated, also from Saipan; behind her is Mary Hackner from Plymouth, MN, Caroline Bascom, daughter of Patricia Bascom, and Ronnie Lauderdale from Richmond, VA.

Ex-MPLA finance chief is new Fund comptroller

The former finance chief of the defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority has been appointed to serve as the next comptroller of the NMI Retirement Fund.

David Demapan, who was MPLA's comptroller when the agency was abolished for alleged misuse of public funds, will take the job of Retirement Fund comptroller on Dec. 22, 2008. He replaces Noel Soria, who is retiring after many years of service with the pension agency.

The Fund board of trustees made the decision in an emergency session late Wednesday afternoon.

"Since this is a very vital position within the Fund, the board decided to appoint someone from the staff," said Fund administrator Mark Aguon.

Demapan joined the Retirement Fund about two months ago. Aside from MPLA, he has worked for the former Marianas Public Lands Corp. and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

For his part, Soria has worked in several capacities for the Retirement Fund since the 1990s. He joined the Fund in 1991 as an accountant, later serving as technical analyst for investment and then as manager for investment until he left the agency in 2000. He returned to the Fund in September 2002, and has served since then as comptroller for the agency.

Soria also held several jobs with private sector companies including Kam Corp., Coral Ocean Point, Pacific Islands Club, and Bank of Saipan. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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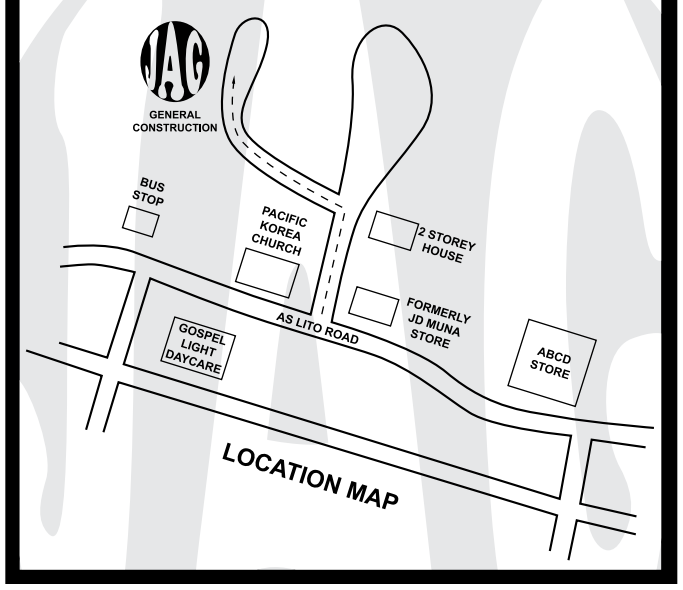


Water panel gets $750,000 grant

Money to be used to replace Garapan pipes

The CNMI Water Task Force has received notification from the Economic Development Administration that it will receive a grant in the amount of $750,000 for the replacement of old and leaking waterlines in Garapan, according to task force chair Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez yesterday.

"I am very pleased to be able to announce this award. The Water Task Force went after this grant vigorously and it took over a year to complete the entire process, but the mission was accomplished," said Villagomez. "It has been several years since the CNMI has received any grant assistance from EDA."

EDA is a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce and awards grants to economically distressed areas of the United States for economic development, including needed infrastructure projects. EDA's grant will be matched with $250,000 in task force CIP funds for the million dollar project in Garapan.

The Garapan project was proposed because Garapan is the center of the CNMI's main economic pillar—tourism.

"Currently, the tourism center cannot be provided with 24-hour water because of the deteriorated water system between Chalan Pale Arnold and Beach Road, said program manager Pedro Sasamoto. "This project will resolve that situation and make 24 hour water possible."

The task force thanked the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Hafadai Beach Hotel and Century Hotel for their submissions in support of this project.

"We also thank the Governor's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Commission for approving this plan and supporting the project," said Sasamoto.

The task force hopes to award a contract for the project by December and complete the work by the end of 2009. ***(WTF)***

CNMI closer to reaping military benefits

Resident Representative Pedro A. Tenorio said yesterday that legislation that makes the CNMI eligible for grants under the Office of Economic Adjustment is now on the desk of President Bush, who is expected to sign it shortly.

The amendment, sponsored by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo at the request of Tenorio, was included in the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which passed in April. This measure was not originally in the Senate version but, with the help of Hawaii Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, the House version was substituted for the original S. 3001 and approved by the Senate.

"Thanks to our friends, the CNMI, especially Tinian, will be able to apply for grants that will help prepare the island for more constant military use with the upcoming relocation of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Forces to Guam," said Tenorio.

The OEA is responsible for the planning, directing, coordinating and managing of Department of Defense economic adjustment programs for communities, areas, and States adversely affected by DoD realignment actions. It also assists local communities, areas, or States with special impact assistance and joint land use planning in expanding public service facilities to meet requirements generated by major expansions or the establishment of new DoD installations.

The new law will also create an account in the U.S. Treasury to fund improvements in property or facilities on Guam, obtain property support services for these locations and develop military facilities or training ranges in the CNMI.

According to Tenorio, "This is welcome legislation because it recognizes the strategic importance of our islands, specifically Tinian, of which the U.S. government already leases over two-thirds, and makes our desire to reap some benefit from the base realignment process that much closer to a reality."

Tenorio has met with officials of OEA and has been assured that OEA, in coordination with other federal agencies will aid in identifying and evaluating what impact any possible DoD programs will have on the overall environment.

Tenorio emphasizes that local leaders "must be fully engaged with the relocation of the Marines to insure that the CNMI receives maximum benefits, and is protected from environmental harm."

Tenorio plans to continue working with the Tinian Legislative Delegation, Tinian Mayor's Office and all people to make sure that the CNMI's participation in any programs concerning the base realignment process is maximized. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend coming up

Help turn in a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on Oct. 17-19, 2008, at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

All Encountered couples and priests are invited to share their gifts, talents and time in the planning and hosting of this weekend. A planning meeting will be held today, Oct. 3, at 6pm, at the residence of Charles and Cathy Cepeda in Finasisu. Bring a potluck dish and join in the planning fun!

For further information or registration form, contact any of the following

Weekend Pillar Coordinators
Mark & Jenni Aguon
Phone no. 483-3836
Email address markaguon@gmail.com & apakaaguon@yahoo.com

Fall 2008 Weekend Coordinators
Tony & Lynne Yarobwemal
Phone no. 234-5053
Email address tonyy822@gmail.com

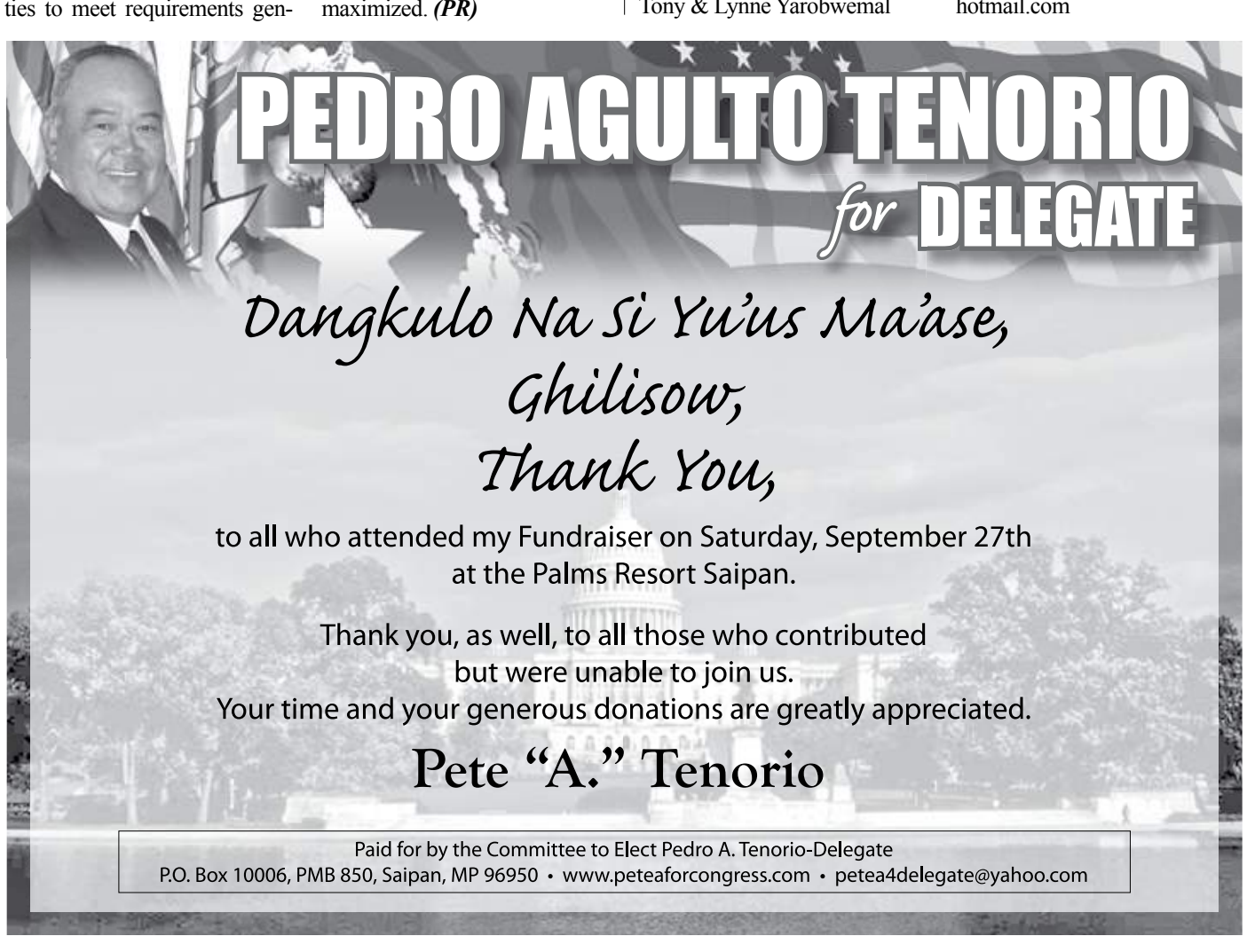
Fall 2008 Weekend Co-coordinators
Vince & Hilma Castro
Phone no. 322-4484
Email address hilmascastrome@gmail.com

Fall 2008 Registration Couple
John & Vicky Mafnas
Phone no. 285-9324
Email address vbmafnas@yahoo.com

You may also contact the Ecclesial Team/ Executive Board members:

Fr. Ike Ayuyu
Phone no. 285-9324, or
Email address ike@ayuyu.us

Charles & Cathy Cepeda
Phone no. 483-6435, or
Email address charlesvcepeda@gmail.com & nannakit@hotmail.com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Thank You,
to all who attended my Fundraiser on Saturday, September 27th
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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 03, 2000

CDA asks banks to invest more on housing loans
In fresh efforts to beef up the CNMI government's housing program, the Commonwealth Development Authority has started negotiation with private banks and financial institutions, encouraging them to intensify their long-term loan packages for homes. Board Chair John S. Tenorio said some of the banking institutions in the Northern Marianas have already pledged to upgrade their portfolio earmarked for long-term housing loans but only up to a limited amount.

DPH warns against Tanapag land crabs
The Department of Public Health will issue an advisory this week warning people against consuming land crabs taken from Tanapag after preliminary test showed that eight land crabs from the cemetery were found contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl. While there was no significant sampling made in the testing conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 in May of this year, DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez believes that the people should be discouraged from eating land crabs until a more extensive evaluation has been conducted.

CPA exceeds debt payment requirement by 27%
The level of revenues currently generated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority from its marine division has started showing signs of improvement, empowering its ability to comply with the $33 million seaport bond indenture. After previously falling short to meeting the 125 percent debt coverage ratio requirement, CPA managed to exceed the required debt service coverage by injecting additional revenues from its seaport operation in August.

October 03, 2001

Debate bares gubernatorial bets' stand on critical issues
At first, they were pulling their punches—gentlemen to the bone and flashing toothpaste ad smiles. By the time the first intermission rolled by, claws were beginning to show and feathers were starting to get ruffled. By the time the debate neared its end, guns were a-blazing and Mr. Nice Guy got shoved to the back of the stage as the three contenders waded in—claws, fangs and all. The tension was so thick that, when the debate finally ended, the entire place erupted into cheers, catcalls, and clapping that became a sustained standing ovation.

MVA's Saipanda wears new outfit
A Japan-based production company yesterday donated a new Saipanda mascot costume to the Marianas Visitors Authority for its on-island and off-island promotional activities. Officials of Japan's First Impression Production Co., arrived on Saipan to personally present to MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio and Deputy Managing Director Vicky Benavente the six-foot Saipanda mascot costume made in the United States. First Impression Production Co., official Kentaro Shimizu said the Saipanda costume, which has a built-in fan, costs $7,000.

Reserves may be tapped to beef up airport security
The Commonwealth Ports Authority may be forced to deploy local reserves, in the absence of national guards to boost current security measures at all CNMI ports of entry. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday said the Northern Marianas does not have enough law enforcement officers for deployment at the airport and harbor facilities.

October 03, 2002

House overrides budget vetoes
The House of Representatives yesterday moved to restore the 12 line items vetoed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta on the $217-million Fiscal Year 2003 budget, in a rare override supported by a powerhouse 14-to-one vote by members. Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider justified the House action as a "policy call" that he hoped the Senate would concur with.

Customs collections drop to $53M
Customs collections took a beating in the recently ended financial year, totaling $53.31 million in 2002 representing a steep 14-percent plunge compared to the year-end collections in 2001. From the $62.2 million collected in fiscal year 2001, total collections in both the user's fee and excise tax showed a loss of nearly $9 million this last fiscal year.

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Ladies Wrangler Jeans Slim Fit
$12.99

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$6.99

Girl's Round Neck Top
$4.79

Girl's Microfiber Tight Assorted
$1.99

Infant's Overall with Shirt Assorted Colors
$1.39

Infant's Vest Assorted Colors
$1.39

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$10.99

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$4.99

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$4.79

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$1.59

Lander Styling Gel 16oz.
$1.49

Mens & Ladies Body Spray
$1.79

Rubbermaid Snap Toppers 12 qt.
$7.29

Rubbermaid Snap Toppers 18 qt.
$10.49

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19.99 /cs.

Chicken Whole Fryers 30lbs. (Limit 1 case)
$34.99 /cs.

Tilapia/Milkfish
$1.25 /lb.

US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case
$18.99 /cs.

New Zealand Mussels 1/2 Shell 2.2lb.
$4.99 /ea.

Diamond G. Calrose Rice 50lbs.
$32.99 /bg.

ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz.
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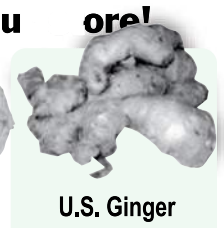

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Opinion

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MEMBER

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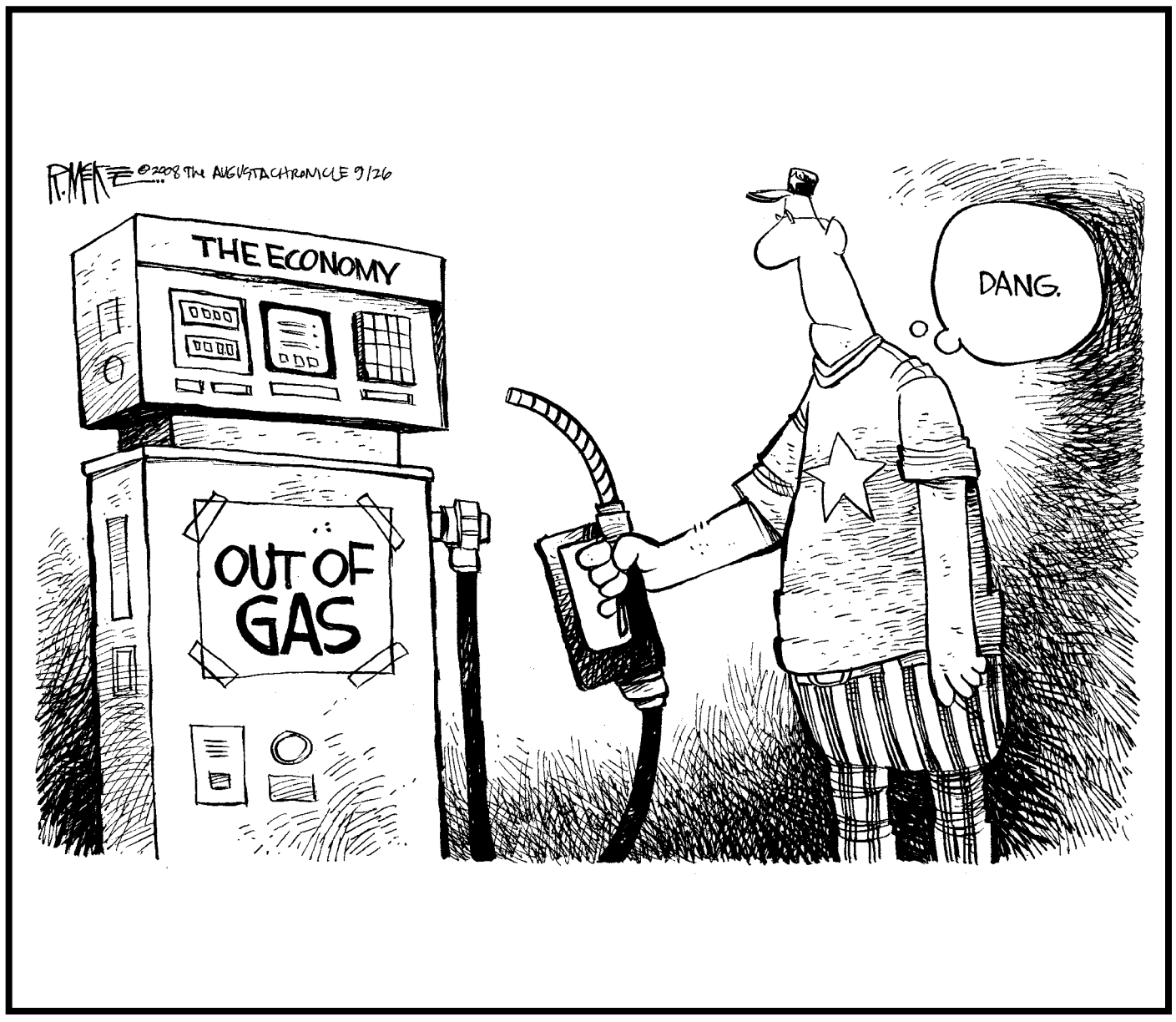

In Their Own Words

What is your stance on federalization and how will you approach it as CNMI's Delegate to Congress?

The following are the responses of the Delegate candidates to questions posed by American government teacher Ambrose Bennett. The questions were posed to all nine Delegate candidates. This week, five submitted their responses by the deadline. The questions and the candidates' responses will run as a continuing series.

By DAVID M. CING
Special to the Saipan Tribune

When I voted against the Covenant, I voted against the provision that allows the U.S. Congress to extend any federal laws to the territories, which includes the federalization of Labor and Immigration of which the U.S. Congress had just approved.

Nevertheless, the circumstances that we all face today boils down to this: The issue of immigration and the strategic agreement that the U.S. proposed right at the beginning of the negotiation of the Covenant have been approved even before the negotiation was completed by the status negotiators. On the strategic agreement, it is common sense that the Department of Defense cannot properly enforce the military without controlling the immigration.

However, the Labor issue is vague on both sides: the U.S. and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. At one point in time, Labor & Immigration were consolidated as one department by the Commonwealth government because it links together. To self govern the CNMI on this area is like asking the U.S. government to negate the issue of strategic governance in that controlling immigration also means controlling the port of entry. As a result, all of the guest workers would be turned away upon arrival into the CNMI, should the U.S. government decide to do so.

When terrorists attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. saw the urgency to close all borders. Truly, the ends justify the means. The argument of infringing on the right of self-governing versus the right to protect the U.S. citizens have to be weighted accordingly. The provision of self-government and its spirit in the Covenant, and the provision of the right of the U.S. Congress to extend any federal laws to the territories as it deems appropriate outweigh the self-government issue.

Recent events on the local media can further substantiate the issue. On Sept. 2, 2008 (*Marianas Variety*, Pg. 1), I explained that the CNMI immigration was based on the strategic agreement, and that the Sept. 11 incident contributed in the justification of that agreement. In addition, on Sept. 12, 2008 (*Saipan Tribune*), Governor

See CING on Page 14

By JOHN OLIVER DLR. GONZALES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

US Public Law 110-229 (Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008), known locally as federalization, applies the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act to the CNMI.

"Title VII: Northern Mariana Islands, Subtitle A: Immigration, Security, and Labor" extends U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI with a transition period not later than Dec. 3, 2014, including:

- Sets numerical limitations for nonimmigrant workers for both Guam and the CNMI;
- Sets forth provisions regarding nonimmigrant investors and workers;
- Requires the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to report to Congress the status of nonresident guest workers in the CNMI;
- Amends the INA to provide a CNMI only nonimmigrant visitor visa for up to 45 day stays (vs. current 15 day stay limit);
- Directs the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to monitor such admissions and suspend the entry of foreign nationals from any country whose nationals pose risks to US national security;
- Requires US entry from the CNMI to be processed under present INA protocols, including immediate removal for non-entry;
- Requires the President and GAO to report to Congress on status of transition program, while authorizes CNMI Governor to report to the President regarding transition;
- Prohibits the CNMI from increasing the number of foreign guest workers as of the date of enactment of said Act;
- Exempts public hospitals in the CNMI from certain nurse admission requirements to ensure continuum of nursing professionals;

My position as your Delegate

I respect U.S. Congressional authority to federalize local control of immigration for compelling national and homeland security purposes.

As your Delegate I will defend our self-government. I will diligently work with the Secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security, INS, and Interior to craft the regulations that take into consideration (1) our leveraging of the CNMI's strategic defense thrust

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EDITORIAL

A test of leadership

The failure of the House of Representatives to pass the $700 billion plan to unclog the credit markets represented a colossal failure of American leadership — not just by President Bush and the congressional leadership but also by the Republican and Democratic presidential nominees. Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama each tried to use the crisis to their political advantage last week while stopping short of giving their unqualified support to the legislative package worked out over the weekend. When the bailout was voted down, they quickly joined the pointless and puerile finger-pointing of House Republicans and Democrats.

In the aftermath of Monday's political collapse, the facts are these: The country is now threatened with a devastating economic unraveling if action is not taken to allow government intervention in the financial markets. President Bush and the House leaders have already demonstrated that they are unable to muster the votes necessary to pass the legislation they crafted with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. Either Obama or McCain will inherit this crisis in less than four months. They should both be using every means of persuasion they possess to get members of their parties to support a rescue bill.

Fortunately, both candidates took some productive steps Tuesday. Obama acted first, issuing a statement that stressed the necessity for quick congressional reconsideration of the Paulson plan. Obama correctly pointed out: "We are unlikely to succeed if we start from scratch or reopen negotiations about the core elements of the agreement." But he suggested that the plan on the table, under which the Treasury would buy "toxic" securities held by banks and other institutions, be supplemented by an increase in federal insurance for bank deposits, from $100,000 to $250,000. The FDIC later indicated it was moving in that direction.

McCain also endorsed the increased insurance limit in an interview with Fox Television. He also proposed that the Treasury use funds already at its disposal to shore up banks and to begin buying up the distressed mortgage-backed securities. Having posed as a would-be broker for a rescue deal last week while failing to get behind the one that emerged Sunday, McCain, too, finally said clearly that he favored a "yes" vote on the package. "I know that we have to act, even though we failed yesterday," McCain said. Better late than never.

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EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

By GREGORIO C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Congress had every right to enact U.S. Public Law 110-229 to federalize the immigration laws for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Having said this, federal lawmakers and officials must understand the crucial role of tourism to our economy, and should develop regulations that will take into consideration our Commonwealth's reliance on tourists from foreign countries. Besides tourists from Japan and South Korea, a significant number of our visitors are from China and Russia and the application of U.S. federal immigration laws and policies could be very problematic for these visitors. We need to protect our tourism industry from the effects of the federalization of immigration.

Unless the federal government include China and Russia in their visa waiver program, or provide some other means to allow these visitors continued entry to the Northern Mariana Islands, we stand to lose up to 100,000, or more, tourists because of the federalization of immigration in the Northern Mariana Islands. And while we should remain steadfast to our duty to keep all threats to our national security from entering our borders, the federalization of immigration is a very serious matter that will adversely impact our tourism industry. Hence, the drafting and the implementation of regulations that will manage the federalized immigration system here is a matter that will require my immediate and special attention as your Delegate to the U.S. Congress.

As a former Special Assistant to United States Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, I understand well that congressional committees have large influence over executive agencies designated to carry out a law. So it is important that I will try to obtain an appointment to the Committee on Homeland Security so that we could have a greater influence over the drafting and over the implementation of the policies that will apply the federal immigration laws to our Northern Mariana Islands. Membership in the committee will also give us greater leverage to find programs and funds to train and qualify our existing Immigration officers and other NMI residents for the federal immigration jobs that should become available.

There have surfaced in our community and government arguments that U.S. Pub. L. 110-229 may have overreached into issues affecting local self-government; that the law in its present form was broadly drafted. If this claim is correct, then this is a problem that we should attempt to resolve by getting legislation enacted to provide clarity to the contentious issues and thereby eliminate any need to litigate the issues and thus save us the money we will otherwise spend litigating the issues in federal courts.

What is most important is that we need to do everything possible to further influence federal legislations and policies to support the long-term performance, growth and expansion of our economy so that we can attain the lofty goal of an economically self-sufficient Northern Mariana Islands. This, after all, is the promise of the Covenant and influencing the regulations that will govern the federalization of immigration in the Northern Mariana Islands, beginning with protecting our tourist industry, advances this promise.

Greater details of our "*one people, one path, one promise*" position papers are available at http://kilili08.com/.

Thank you for your continuing support and I humbly ask you for your vote of confidence in '08.

By PETE A. TENORIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

As a negotiator of the Covenant, I fought for a permanent exemption from the Immigration and Nationality Act, but we were only granted a temporary exemption under Article V of Section 503a. The fundamental premise behind this grant of authority was: *We were supposed to use our temporary immigration control authority to insulate the CNMI from refugees and other U.S. bound immigrants from using our Commonwealth as U.S. soil in order to obtain permanent residency and eventually citizenship, and to supplement our local workforce to build our economy.* We instead built an economy dependent on foreign workers.

Over the first 20 years of our Commonwealth, our economy grew in size and in its dependence on foreign labor. Foreign workers began supplanting locals in our private sector workforce, and their numbers continued to grow. Employment of our local workforce became secondary, and we stopped thinking about private sector employment opportunities for our high school and college graduates. We underestimated the potential problems associated with managing a foreign workforce, and we initially lacked the regulatory sophistication necessary to protect workers' rights.

We drew criticism from some members of the U.S. Congress, some of it warranted, some not. We attracted attention of human rights activists and the national media, both of which were willing to exaggerate reports of problems and repeat those reports year after year. True or not, they formed the basis for extensive biased and damaging public opinion. Our once respected and envied Commonwealth became a source of controversy to many in the United States. Congress repeatedly called for reform and introduced legislation to federalize our immigration.

My stance on federalization of immigration

It was not any member of Congress or any activist who influenced my position. I believed for several years that we could turn things around: I supported reforms, an increase in the minimum wage, and hiring local U.S. citizens in the private sector. However, there was a lack of consistent commitment to the changes necessary to permanently improve our labor and immigration system.

There was an increasing awareness in Congress of the immigration and labor problems we have struggled with in the CNMI, and a growing concern after 9/11 that our control over immigration posed a threat to national security. As a realist, I know that neither I, nor the Governor, nor the Legislature, nor the business community had any choice but to accept the goal of the 110th Congress to federalize our immigration. The political tides had turned and the high price paid to prevent federalization in the 1990's was no longer available.

Although very controversial, my support for the intent of H.R. 3079 and S. 1634, allowed me to represent the people of the CNMI in House and Senate working groups as the bills were drafted and refined. I worked diligently to ensure that the bills' provisions were not harmful, provided flexibility, supported the needs of the business community, respected the Chamorro and Carolinian peoples and recognized the role of the nonresidents. For the most part, the Senate Energy Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee accepted my suggestions.

How will I approach the issue of federalization as a delegate to Congress?

I will continue the work I have begun as your Resident Representative to ensure that the regulations provide the flexibility and the sensitivity the CNMI needs during the transition process. I have already:

requested the agencies that will be promulgating regulations to develop the interagency agreement that is required by law;

requested an extension of the first transition period to ensure an adequate workforce while we train and prepare our youth to take over jobs from non-residents;

requested the Department of Homeland Security to waive income requirements for immediate relatives spouses of U.S. citizens, and reduce the standard fees for those spouses to obtain green cards; and

met with DHS officials about the visa waiver program, supported the Joint CNMI Guam proposal for handling Chinese and Russian tourists, and stressed the importance of the Chinese and Russian markets to the CNMI especially Tinian.

I will continue to monitor the development of regulations to ensure that the guest worker program is responsive to the needs of the private sector and allows the CNMI to attract new investors.

As your Delegate I will continue to seek public opinion and input through public discussions and forums. I will also ensure that the many reports and studies required by Public Law 110-229 are completed in a timely manner and provide the necessary data to make informed decisions. I am specifically concerned about an ongoing need for a waiver for H visas and the extension of the visa waiver program to provide long-term visas for retirees, students and investors.

We created an untenable situation under local control of immigration, and it will take time, effort, and stewardship to ensure that the process of federalization does not create new levels of social and economic problems. With my experience negotiating the Covenant, the relationships I have built in Congress, my intimate knowledge of Public Law 110-229, and my dedication to leaving a healthy and prosperous CNMI to future generations, I am confident that I am the best candidate to tackle the many challenges that could arise over the next few years with the implementation of federal authority over immigration.

Regardless of the fact that Congress enacted this legislation, the CNMI must change. We must reduce our reliance on foreign workers. We must train our young people for jobs in the private sector. We must reduce the size of our government. We must reduce the wage discrepancy between the government and the private sector.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you on the issue of federalization.

By CHONG MAN WON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

I was against federalization from the beginning but whether we like it or not, federalization is set to happen on June 1, 2009. Even with the lawsuit, we need to start preparing for it. If we wait for the result, it will be too late. Therefore, my stance on federalization is that we should actively participate in the drafting of the regulations to ensure our interests are protected. How will I approach it?

Without the drafted regulations, it is difficult to address this issue properly but the law states that *"In recognition of the Commonwealth's unique economic circumstances, history, and geographical location, it is the intent of Congress that the Commonwealth be given as much flexibility as possible in maintaining existing businesses and other revenue sources, and developing new economic opportunities…This subtitle, and the amendments made by this subtitle, should be implemented wherever possible to expand tourism … including aiding prospective tourists in gaining access to the Commonwealth's memorials, beaches, parks, dive sites, and other points of interest."* As your delegate, I would vigorously communicate our need for all tourist markets because our only industry, the tourism industry, is an important source of revenue, directly or indirectly. We cannot afford to lose any market, let alone an emerging market, without it adversely affecting our businesses, not to mention our crumbling economy. Our Russian market is growing and is providing good economic benefits to not only our hotels but also the surrounding businesses. With the recent conflicts between Russia and Georgia, Department of Homeland Security could keep out this market. I believe our national security is the utmost priority but there should be undeniable facts and not just assumptions before finalizing anything.

The law also states *"…the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands…may request that the Secretary of Homeland Security study the feasibility of creating additional Guam or CNMI-only nonimmigrant visas to the extent that existing nonimmigrant visa categories under the Immigration and Nationality Act do not provide for the type of visitor, the duration of allowable visit, or other circumstance…Consideration of such additional Guam or CNMI only visa categories may include, but are not limited to, special nonimmigrant statuses for investors, students, and retirees, but shall not include nonimmigrant status for the purpose of employment in Guam or the CNMI."* As your delegate, I will explore this because we have these types of visas now and I would like to see that the CNMI have the CNMI-only Retiree Visas, the CNMI-only Foreign Student Visas and the CNMI-only Investor Visas. Although our retirees' visas are limited in numbers, it has potential to increase if we have the necessary health care facilities, along with accessibility to physicians from their home country. The retirees from colder Asian countries could see the CNMI as a potential winter vacation getaway if we actively market it. The benefits are additional businesses, income for local land and homeowners as well as improved health care for our elders and residents.

We need continued access to foreign students for edu-tourism. Middle and upper class Asian families are willing to send their children abroad to learn English. With our close proximity to Asia as well being a part of the United States, the CNMI has added advantage over other destinations. The added benefits are additional income to our local businesses because these students eat in our restaurants, shop in our stores, stay in our homes or apartments and the increase in air-travel. They contribute to our economy. We need access to foreign investors. They also contribute to the economy by infusing fresh money into the community by leasing land and renting properties, by paying taxes, by paying salaries. These types of visas would be only applicable in the CNMI and would not be transferable to Guam or to the United States. I would like for us to be responsible for issuing and monitoring these visas under the supervision of the federal government, that way there are no unnec-

See WON on Page 14

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

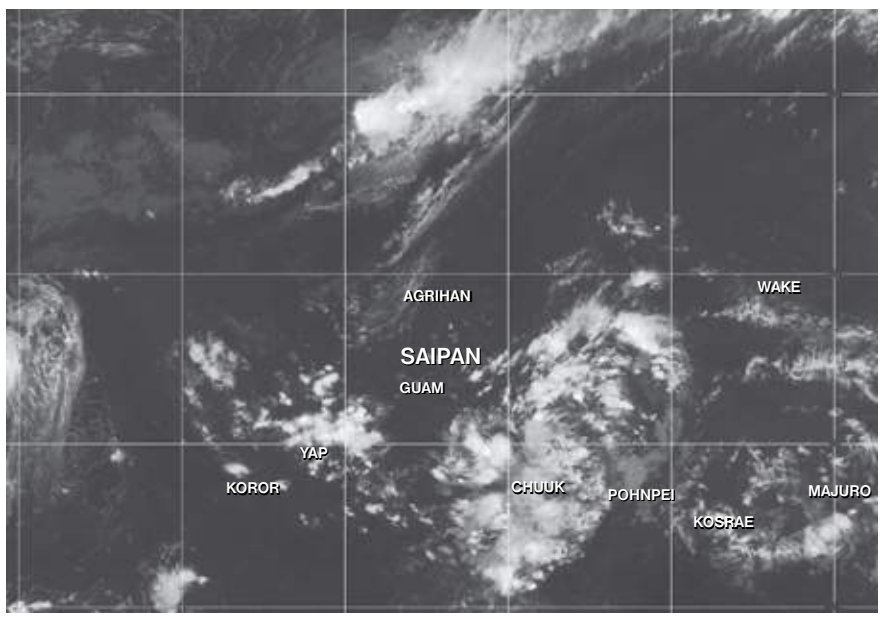
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼73

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼57
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼52
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼75
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼74
London	Showers	▲55	▼45
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲73	▼63
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲73	▼47
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
New York	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼51
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼60
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼40
Pusan	Sunny	▲79	▼58
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲71	▼51
Salem	Rain	▲63	▼51
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼60
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼52
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲73	▼62
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼54

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from 9N130E eastward between Palau and Yap to just north of Chuuk at 9N152E, then northeastward past Enewetak Atoll to end near 13N163E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are in an area north of Yap from 16N130E to 14N140E to 10N143E to 8N139E back to 16N130E. An upper level low north of Guam at 17N146E along with low-level convergence associated with the monsoon trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in a large area southeast of the Marianas from 10N146E to 18N154E to 16N162E to 1N150E back to 10N146E. This area includes Chuuk. Trade-wind convergence is causing widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from near Kosrae eastward across the central Marshall Islands or within an area between 2N and 10N from 162E eastward past 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:53AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:37AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:14PM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
9:07PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07AM	6:05 PM
Saturday	6:07AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:07AM	6:03 PM
Monday	6:07AM	6:03 PM
Tuesday	6:07AM	6:02 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:08AM	8:35PM
Saturday	10:01AM	9:22PM
Sunday	10:54AM	10:11PM
Monday	11:54AM	11:03PM
Tuesday	12:33PM	11:56PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293
Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF ISSUANCE
OF A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

CNMI Governor Benigno R. Fitial, on *September 26, 2008*, approved and issued *Qualifying Certificate No. QC 2008-01 for Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort* ("the Beneficiary").

Address. The address of the Beneficiary is *Kagman*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

Investment. The Beneficiary will invest approximately $*54.2 million* to *construct and operate a golftel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golf course* located at *Kagman*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules and Regulations, this ad is paid by the Applicant

---

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-027

CONSTRUCTION OF LAULAU BAY PATHWAY PHASE 1 KAGMAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Laulau Bay Pathway Phase 1 Kagman, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **(CNMI).**

The project package will be available on or after September 26, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on October 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Entrance of Laulau Bay Golf Course. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. AR questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 17, 2008 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW08-IFB-027**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 22, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 22, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 22, 2008, and must be received no later than October 31, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, November 5, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 27, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2001 4RUNNER 4WD V6
Auto, Beige, Stock: U07-064T
License: ABY-153
Mileage: 56882
~~PRICE $14,599~~
REDUCED PRICE
$12,599

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,299	
R08-018F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	44981	WHITE	ABY-667	8,199	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO		WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	26,899
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,599
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,399~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	5,399
TOYOTA VAN								
R08-016F	2004	SIENNA CE	AUTO	60234	BEIGE	ABZ-410	10,999	
GM VAN								
R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	9,499	
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,185~~	19,099

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TOYOTA ACDelco

CING

From Page 10

Fitial, at the Saipan airport, delivered a speech acknowledging the incident that took place on Sept. 11, 2001, stating that it *"contributed to the federalization of our immigration system."* Furthermore, on Sept. 16, 2008, (*Marianas Variety*, Pg. 4) an article titled, *Indigenous Group Lauds Fitial Lawsuit,* was published explaining the reasons for which the lawsuit was filed. Even if I were to go against my stance on federalization, it is obvious that the CNMI has not only redundancy but also confusion as well within her government.

Furthermore, let us review the Covenant on Article V, Section 504, which provides us with ample opportunity to *"survey the laws of the United States and to make recommendations to the United States Congress as to which laws of the United States not applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands should be made applicable and to what extent and in what manner, and which applicable laws should be made inapplicable and to what extent and in what manner."* It also provides mechanism that is in favor to us, such as the composition of the commission; four of which are from CNMI and three of which are from the U.S.

Moreover, let us examine the hearing before the U.S. Congress, Subcommittee on the Insular, on June 17, 1991, held in San Francisco, California. The journal was printed for the use of the committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. On page 76, on the last paragraph, the former Washington Representative, Mr. Juan N. Babauta, tried to make excuses as to the reason why the former Chairman of the Federal Laws Commission, Mr. Ben Fitial, was not in attendance to present his findings. This was not only negligent on our part, but also contributed to a travesty on this lawsuit that our Governor, the very same individual who is asking for $400,000 to defend the Commonwealth government in the lawsuit, has so arrogantly made. Up until this day, nobody knows for what reason Mr. Ben Fitial failed to come before the U.S. Congress to present his findings when it was the most important and appropriate time to bring the issue of what we are facing today and among other things.

Furthermore, I do agree with Governor Fitial in the issue of finding $400,000, *not* for the purpose of suing the U.S. federal government, but to defray the cost of those less fortunate families in the CNMI who cannot afford to pay for their CUC billings. Yes, with our current situation in the CNMI, I do agree with federalization.

GONZALES

From Page 10

to our nation's national security and (2) by ensuring that we protect our compelling and competitive economic tools provided for in our Covenant (ability to recruit special and labor intensive skilled labor and flexibility for investor and tourist visa permits), thus preserving the CNMI's strategic position and promise for renewed economic revitalization, especially in view of the anticipated U.S. military buildup in our region.

As such, the U.S. will fulfill its side of the bargain by helping the CNMI achieve a progressively higher standard of living comparable to any economically prosperous community in the mainstream US as provided for and promised in Sec. 701 of our Covenant and ushering in a new era of sustainable and self-sufficient economic development

As your Delegate my principal responsibility is to restore lasting *trust* and *respect* to Congress and the federal government because I bring a fresh perspective and a *new vision* paddling forward to a *new direction* of progress for the benefit of *all* who call our Commonwealth home in this *new era* of economic prosperity and renewed hope.

As your Delegate I will apply the 3Cs: Consult—*Ta fan ekkungok* (listen); Communicate—*Ta fan akumprendi* (understand each other); and Collaborate—*Ta fan afamåolek* (work together). I will forge partnerships, *not* break them; build bridges, *not* burn them; work with each other, *not* against, so that we do not repeat the disaster we now face to restore our tainted national image largely created by national partisan games and by lobbyists supposedly working for us.

WON

From Page 11

essary delays.

The law also states "*...the Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Labor may establish and maintain offices and other operations in the Commonwealth for the purpose of carrying out duties...*" and "*...shall recruit and hire personnel from among qualified United States citizens and national applicants residing in the Commonwealth to serve as staff in carrying out operations described in paragraph (1).*" As your delegate, it would be my job to see that these offices are established and our qualified resident workers apply and are employed.

As for our guest workers, I believe we do not have the adequate local workforce to accommodate our entire business sectors. We will continue to need their services until we have a reliable local workforce. In the law it states *"shall provide…technical assistance, including assistance to identify types of jobs needed, identify skills needed to fulfill such jobs, and assistance to Commonwealth educational entities to develop curricula for such job skills to include training teachers and students for such skills…In providing such technical assistance…assist in the development and implementation of a process to identify opportunities for and encourage diversification and growth of the economy of the Commonwealth and to identify and encourage opportunities to meet the labor needs of the Commonwealth."* How are we to meet the necessary labor needs? Train our local workforce through funded programs and gradually phase out the guest workers who will either move on through the federal system or return home.

I am not an attorney and don't pretend to be one but I do read and I will consult my legal counsel for any clarifications and interpretations. Even attorneys consult each others regarding legal matters.

A wise man asked me "What do you do when life gives you a lemon?" The answer is you make lemonade. Although change is difficult and sometimes painful, we shouldn't only look at the negative side but also see how this change could benefit the CNMI. We should work with the federal government so that there are compromises between us and that we benefit from it.

Again, I'd like to close by saying, "Some say he lacks experience" but I say experience doesn't guarantee success. Look at where experience has led us. Lack of experience can be a good thing because it makes us ask "why" and "how" instead of "It won't work" and "I know better." It can motivate us and motivation leads to hard work and hard work leads to success. Some say "he's an outsider" but I say my wife is local, my kids are local, so how can I be an outsider? Please don't judge me for what I am but who I am, a husband, a father, your friend, your neighbor who is willing to make a difference for the betterment of the CNMI. Come this Nov. 4, I humbly ask for your vote of confidence.

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The household budget?

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Some cash-strapped households in the Commonwealth are getting clobbered financially, and decisions can be hard to make. Have you ever noticed that it's easy to budget when you're rolling in the clover, but it's an emotional drain when times are lean?

I think a lot of folks simply ignore budgeting altogether in bad times because they feel so hopeless. After all, at some point, it costs what it costs to live. You really can't do anything about it. Rubbing the jagged details into your raw eyeballs every month isn't going to solve anything.

If you're paying, say, $900 a month to rent your Saipan love shack, you can, if you want, write this number down on a sheet of green ledger paper. You can stare at it. You can scribe little diagonal lines through the zeros so they look more like definitive integers and not like stray vowels. You can multiply $900 by 12 and then announce to your spouse, in a self-congratulatory tone appropriate for discovering cold fusion, "Honey, we're spending ten-point-eight grand a year on rent!"

After all those contortions, do you know what your rent will be? It will still be $900 a month, pal, same as it always was.

I'm not pooh-poohing the virtues of quantitative analysis, budgeting, forecasting, or whatever. And I'm certainly not deriding cutting expenses intelligently. But I get a little confused when I hear bromides like "households should be run like a business."

Says who? Did your marriage vows specify a minimum Internal Rate of Return for the commitment? Can you do a tax-deferred exchange of families if yours doesn't meet your return on equity criteria?

The theory of the firm and the theory of the family are pretty much opposites. You can sell off your company's assets to raise cash, but would you sell your family photo album? You can issue equity in your company, but would you sell shares in your spouse? You can merge your firm with a competitor, but are you going to merge your family with the neighbor's?

A firm is rational to be highly leveraged, since debt is cheaper than equity, but would you want your household to be as indebted as possible?

You can defer maintenance on factory machinery, but are you going to put off getting the kids' teeth fixed?

The single, overriding issue in any business, every single day, is this: Should it continue operating, or should it be shut down. If the assets can be employed more productively elsewhere, then it can make sense to dismantle everything and to cash-out. (That's what corporate raiders often do). Households don't have this choice, as such. You don't eyeball your family over the breakfast table every morning and ask yourself if it's time to liquidate them. Well, not if you're normal. However, if you're being served runny oatmeal or weak coffee, it might be sufficient provocation to reconsider things.

When times are tough, families that are strapped for cash have to endure all sorts of cock-eyed "advice" from the chattering ether about how they should manage their money. That's how pop-culture operates. Well, true, many families are wildly irresponsible financially, since most people don't think about tomorrow as long as their bellies are full today. Even from Saipan, you can see that the U.S. is proving this fact, big time, with its debtors' pity party. Suffice it to say that fools and their money are soon parted; the same thing applies to fools and their freedom.

Still, not every household that hits lean times got there by being irresponsible or foolish. There's a weird paradox at work: If you haven't been squandering money, you're already running so lean that there's less fat to cut when the time for cutting arrives. I know a lot of people in Saipan in that position.

Some things can't be solved by analysis. If you tracked every cent you spent, what good would come of it? For some people, maybe a lot of good. But for most folks I know, who are responsible to begin with, it would just be a wasted exercise in bean-counting.

Sometimes, you've just got to shrug your shoulders, hunker down, and hope for the best.

Stop tarnishing the image of the NMI

On Tuesday, the *Saipan Tribune* had a story titled "2 jobless workers allegedly resort to car burglary." I've seen this kind of articles so many times and I wonder what our leaders—both elected and appointees—are doing about it? What are these two jobless alien workers still doing on our island? No wonder why we have so many illegal aliens that are still running around, doing odd jobs and unthinkable crimes. Our Immigration and Labor Systems needs a major revamp No wonder why the U.S. wants to take over these two departments.

We have governed our way of life for over 30 years since we became U.S. citizens, and these problems still exist. I mean, I still see two Chinese national riding their bicycles with at least four trash bags full of aluminum cans to sell at a recycling center in Puerto Rico, and I wonder if this is the job they applied for on our island. Pimping, prostitution, corruption, illegal taxi, scam marriages, illegal drugs, burglary/theft—all these have tainted our image. We really need to get our act together. I urge all officials to include private organizations to work together and come up a solution. As the old saying goes, "We need to start cleaning up our "trash", no offense to those that do not apply. But to those who do illegal acts, I hope you get caught for whatever crimes you are committing.

To our CNMI descent and non-CNMI descent who make the CNMI their home, I urge all of you to work together and help put a stop to these types of senseless acts that have tarnished the image of our islands.

Joseph M. Palacios
Dandan, Saipan

AYUDA NETWORK, INC.
An Alliance of Northern Marianas Human/Social Service Providers

"DOING THINGS BETTER TOGETHER"

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Ayuda Network, Inc., a non-profit organization, is looking for an energetic and dynamic individual to fill a full-time position of **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

Through the direct supervision of the President, Board of Directors, the Executive Director will be responsible for the day to day administration of the Ayuda Network, Inc., and assisting public/private agencies in the coordination of social/human services. The incumbent is responsible to secure and manage grants and other funding sources.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in a field related to Social Services with a minimum of two years experience in leadership positions working in social services or equivalent. Possess knowledge of computers and experience in database management and network administration. Experience in community organization preferred.

Applications and position description may be picked up at Ayuda Network, Inc. in Capitol Hill, Government Housing #1233 from 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. All applications shall accompanied by a cover letter, a resume, and a police clearance. Dateline for submission of applications will be no later than 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 24, 2008. For more information contact the Ayuda Network, Inc. at 322-7469.

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DEALS OF THE WEEK

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Incompetence at DPS

Mr. Ogumoro: Sir, I am compelled to write this letter because of the facts that you have supplied. I thank you, and many of my "circle" of friends do also, for clarifying the details concerning your case.

I must admit that, in following the articles in the newspaper about your ongoing case in the past, I had prejudged you, not knowing your background and qualifications. One of the main things that hit me in your statement was, "22 years retired from the U.S. Marine Corps." This in itself sets you apart from any common person in the DPS and many other non-career vets. You, sir, would not have lasted that long in the military if there was anything detrimental about your character. In fact, (I am not questioning your accomplishments) you have accomplished all of these certified qualifications, and they are indeed very impressive and show a moral character, knowledge and expertise that is well defined.

In your other revelations concerning the NMI DPS, (I am also including Tinian in this), I am well aware of the incompetence and personal vendettas that are happening on a day-to-day basis by inexperienced and self-serving people that are generated by the incompetent, politically-appointed department heads. I personally think that there are more incompetents in this category than not. I and many others have been "caught up" with the "small fry" trying to have a "big man" image and trying to "look good," so they could make a name and look like they have the expertise for a job that they don't know anything about.

I am glad that your criminal conviction has been expunged. In a past personal vendetta against me by Tinian DPS, mine was ultimately dismissed because of unsubstantial evidence, but it cost me my house and career.

Although I do not know you personally, I do believe that you may have an arrogant nature, as many of us veterans and/or career military personnel have. Many of us have a problem trying to deal with the incompetence we meet in many of the day-to-day operations of the private businesses, along with the NMI government politically-hired personnel. (Many "NMD" that have resided in the U.S. mainland experience the same problem) How many of the present DPS, Fire Department, and CPA police and Fire Department hires could possibly pass the entrance physical without having "connected" names?

I wish you the best of luck, sir, and I will probably get a lot of flak from this letter but "Semper Fi." Good luck to you.

John Mixson
Tinian

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: 2008-CDA-08-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Friday, October 31, 2008 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FY2009 & 2010 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY & THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting, CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JOSEPH B. SONGSONG and MARIA M. SONGSONG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 2, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 2, 1982, under Document No. 14220 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Sadog Tasi and hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 21899-2, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2086/81, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 12450, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1981.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on July 1, 2005. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on October 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $32,530.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than October 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than October 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $32,530.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ERMIAS M. IGUEL and DIONICIA O. IGUEL (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 30, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 31, 1984, under File No. 84-1365 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Chalan Kanoa and hereafter described:

Lot number 014 H 11, and containing an area of 360 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 014 H 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 705, on the 1st day of March, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on May 18, 2006. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on October 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $24,130.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than October 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than October 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $24,130.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(JVA# 08-005 REANNOUNCED)

OPENING DATE: **October 3, 2008**
CLOSING DATE: **October 20, 2008**

POSITION: **Executive Secretary (Board)**
LOCATION: **Saipan**

NATURE OF WORK: Primary responsibility is to provide office support services to ensure timely and efficient conduct of business by the Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission (Board). The use of independent judgment, initiative and discretion is essential as the employee is entrusted with confidential records and files. The incumbent shall utilize standard office equipment plus a computer and transcribing machine and work under the supervision of the Board and Administrator.

COMPENSATION: The starting compensation range for this position is set at Pay Level 29/01, or $21,506.41 per annum, plus other benefits as mandated by law.

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All application packages must be received at the Fund office no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, October 20, 2008**; applications will be accepted by e-mail and/or postal mail. **Late or incomplete application packages will not be accepted**. Packages must be marked **"JVA# 08-005 Confidential."** Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance** addressed to the following:

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Council on Developmental Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. 1312 Capitol Hill _ P.O. BOX 502565, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-7000 _ Fax: (670) 664-7030

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Council Members of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, through its Interim Chairman, is hereby giving a notice that a Special Meeting is to take place on Friday, October 3, 2008 at 9:00 AM in the conference room of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Welcoming Remarks

II. Roll Call

III. Establishment of Quorum

IV. Executive Session

V. Open Session

VI. Next Meeting

VII. Closure

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Derek Duenas, Interim Chairperson

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

INVITATION FOR BID
NMC No.: IFB 08-006
Procurement of Computers and Accessories

The Northern Marianas is soliciting for sealed competitive bids for procurement of 30 computer systems with accessories and software, 4 big flat screen television sets, 50 client access licenses. A bidder does not have to bid for all items listed in the specifications and scope of work package. All items must be deliverable within 60 days of award. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. Any bid/proposal received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected. Bids/proposals rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

Due Date/Time: **Wednesday, October 08th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.**

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan or the NMC Tinian Instructional Site Administrative Offices. Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due Wednesday, October 08th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan or the NMC Rota Instructional Site Administrative Office. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations, and in accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118; **"Local Business Preference"** is **available to local bidders** in this procurement. For bidders located **outside the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu).

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by:

/ss/ Duane R.T. Sablan
NMC, Acting Procurement Officer

/ss/ Adrian Atalig, Director
NMC Information Technology

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
JVA# 08-008

OPENING DATE: **October 3, 2005**

POSITIONS: **Clerk I and Clerk III**

For application forms and detailed position descriptions, please visit the front office of the NMI Retirement Fund at Capitol Hill, Saipan, or e-mail your request for a "Position Description" to sablanci@nmiretirement.com. To be considered, you must complete your application and provide a police clearance on or before closing of vacancy announcement. Deadline for submission of applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 20, 2008.

Bailout: A strange abyss

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country," a sentence we used to bang in typing class nearly 40 years ago. The message came to mind as President Bush sought bipartisan U.S. congressional support for a $700 billion bailout plan. It inched its way out of the U.S. Senate but ran aground in the U.S. House of Representatives. Reconsideration is scheduled within a week's time.

The issue triggered a debate between conservatives and liberals. It was reduced to capitalism vs. socialism. To leave the issue for resolution by Wall Street would be capitalism. To do otherwise is to espouse financial socialism. The economy was teetering on the edge of an abyss of unknown depth. Politicians from both sides of the aisle were wrestling with the devils of banking and the demons of high finance.

There were lots of elbowing for partisan advantage, but nobody has a clue about what, exactly, to do about the abyss. At least no one had a clue worth $700 billion. Sen. John McCain aborted the first presidential debate and headed to Washington but offered nothing but his stiff robotics. His rival Barack Obama did the same, offering his jelly fish-like answers versus a very serious financial crisis.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke came out after the House defeated the proposal, saying that the federal government has most of the tools in the kit. But he needs the help of the U.S. Congress to complete the rescue effort. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi blamed her failed leadership on Republicans by delivering a vicious partisan statement. She should have sought for calm that would pave the way for reconsideration.

The eleventh hour meeting included burning the midnight oil. It was a must-have meeting to hammer out a bipartisan bailout. I'm not sure where the package would lead the global village if approved. But it dictated the ups and downs of stock markets worldwide. But those on Main Street woke up the next day with their business-as-usual demeanor.

Appalling how members of the U.S. Congress, beholden to special interest groups, were given the responsibility to dispose of the $700 billion bailout. It's an escape mechanism to hide behind the veil of bipartisan negligence. They had to give back to unscrupulous greedheads who messed-up Wall Street. It's payback time for special interests and scoundrels that bankrolled their campaigns. Disgusting!

The irrelevant, if not, redundant labor unions have also weighed in on this matter. While labor unions have succeeded funneling more dough to workers, I am not sure that they understand the net effect of their version of greed: exporting American jobs overseas. If I may illustrate a point: a stateside worker engaged in the production of surgical gloves gets about $18 an hour. In Malaysia, employees are paid $8 dollars a day for the same quality surgical gloves.

Of the many varied reactions to the bailout plan, one citizen opined: "What we have just witnessed is how socialism doesn't work. Every Comrade must have a house, even if the Comrade cannot afford a house, and even if we cannot afford to buy them a house.

"Barney Frank, Christopher Dodd, Chuck Schumer and Barack Obama are all up to their eyeballs in this socialist experiment called Fannie Mae. Now they are all desperately trying to cover their Fannies of all times right before election. I say, kick their Fannies out as quickly as you Mae.

"Communism always sounds good on paper. Utopia always seems a noble goal. In practice, however, it always fails and leads to economic ruin. Far better the capitalist system that spurs huge growth, providing jobs and opportunity.

"Despite the clear evidence of the Reagan boom years, Democrats continue to thwart this success. *Congress forced small businesses to raise minimum wage. Predictably, just when the full measure of that increase hit businesses a few weeks ago, unemployment hit 6.1 percent.*

"All Comrades must make the same pay, we must all be equal. But what good are the new high wages if the Comrade has been told 'We can't afford you, you're fired?' Businesses must compete. When hit with higher expenses, they naturally attempt 'to do more with less'."

Indeed, a thoughtful and interesting view on capitalism vs. socialism.

John S. DelRosario is the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Letter to the Editor

The Knock Yourself Out Joke

Knock knock. Who is there?

No one out there!

No one out there who?

No one out there wants to buy CUC for one dollar! For $250,000,000?! For free?!

Alexandro Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
GUANGDONG MILEI?
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U.S. UTILITY LUMBERS
Regular/Treated 2*6/2*8
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40% OFF

2*4*18 Regular	$6.90	2*6*18 Regular	$10.80
2*4*20 Regular	$7.40		
2*4*12 Utility regular	$4.60	2*4*12 Utility treated	$6.70
2*4*14 Utility regular	$5.30	2*4*14 Utility treated	$7.70
2*4*16 Utility regular	$6.00	2*4*16 Utility treated	$8.70
2*4*18 Utility regular	$6.70	2*4*18 Utility treated	$9.70
2*4*20 Utility regular	$7.20	2*4*20 Utility treated	$10.70
2*6*12 Utility regular	$6.90	2*6*12 Utility treated	$10.20
2*6*14 Utility regular	$7.90	2*6*14 Utility treated	$12.20
2*6*16 Utility regular	$8.90	2*6*16 Utility treated	$14.20
2*6*18 Utility regular	$9.90	2*6*18 Utility treated	$15.20
2*6*20 Utility regular	$10.90	2*6*20 Utility treated	$17.20
2*6*18 Dougalas regular	$12.90	2*6*20 Dougalas Treated	$18.90

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HENRY ADHESIVE 430 VINYL TILE
$14.00/Gal
HENRY ADHESIVE 314 CERAMIC TILE
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FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you, Mr. McCue

The captain's voice comes over the cruise ship's public address system, "We are now directly over the beginning of the Mariana's Trench. From here it extends to approximately 200-300 miles southwest of the island of Guam where it is 36,201 feet deep. Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, is 29,035 feet. At the deepest point, a bowling ball dropped from the surface falling at 10 feet per second would take over one hour to reach the sea floor." And on he goes with other trivia about the trench. The tourists standing on the ship's deck look out over the empty ocean and contemplate just where they are at that moment. Of course many snap photos. Will this be another aspect of the CNMI tourist industry?

Mr. William McCue's letter last week and most recently (*Saipan Tribune*, Oct. 1, 2008) do present very real obstacles facing the proposed marine monument as a tourist attraction. It seems to me that he is correct in his analysis. Since I am not an experienced ship's captain and have no idea about the operational costs of seagoing vessels, it is reasonable to assume that his estimates of costs for a vessel to travel to the northern islands on a monument tour are correct. That is a good start for a business plan is to compare your business costs against the necessary revenues to come up with a breakeven part.

Did you know that some people spend from $1,600 to $10,000 plus air fare to go look at polar bears in Churchill, Canada? To tour the Galapagos Island starts at $1,200 to $4,500 plus air fare. A trip to Antarctica can set you back from $3,500 to $37,000 plus air fare. About 15 years ago, seven friends and I went on a 10-day fly-'n'-fishing trip to Manitoba, Canada. Round trip air fare from Sacramento, Calif., to Winnipeg, Canada, was $600 each. For a 14-passenger van for the road trip from Winnipeg to Lynne Lake and back was $100 each. The fishing package was $800 each for the float plane trip, small fishing boats, a cabin with no running water, no showers, no flush toilet and no electricity, located on a lake with lot of fish in the middle of nowhere. Plus we had to provide our own food and drink (the beer alone was about $2,000). I will never forget the look on the face of the float plane pilot when he saw all our gear, food and 80 cases of beer waiting on the dock to be loaded on his plane. Yes, they weighed everything to make sure the plane was not overloaded. Thank goodness we did not have to leave any beer behind on the dock. We ran out of beer on day 8, so they flew in six more cases. We caught and released a lot of fish. Overall we each spent around $2,500-$3,000(or $20,000-$24,000 group total) for the trip. And we were not rich people. My point is that there are many people that spend big bucks to have fun and unusual adventures. Tour package costs to the northern islands of $3,000-$10,000 per person are not outside the adventure tour market price range.

Mr. McCue is also correct about the U.S. Coast Guard being unable to continuously patrol the monument for poaching or other illegal intrusions due to budget limitations and the size of the area. However, this will change in the future as Guam becomes a more strategic military location. As Guam grows in military importance, the military's interest in what is happening in the waters in this section of the Pacific, including the northern islands, will increase. Then we will have the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard keeping a more diligent lookout on just who is in our waters. That is going to happen with or without a monument.

Now we have the potential expenses and potential revenues to calculate a "ball park" break even point for a cruise to the northern islands. Let the entrepreneurs and their analysts get hard figures and make it happen. The money and the public interest in adventure tours are out there. I am quite sure that the U.S. military will be keeping a diligent eye on the northern islands in the future. That would be in their and our best interests. Support you marine monument.

Brad Doerr
San Roque, Saipan

It's Saipan that needs protecting

One of the base ideas that protected areas across the planet are created upon is that human activity causes a negative change in the numbers, diversity and behaviors of animal and other natural life. Restricting human's actions was and is still one of the first steps if natural life is threatened. The process of identifying the offending activity and stopping it is called regulation and enforcement. One of, if not the greatest, hurdle to the efforts of reversing biomass decline is the actual enforcement of well thought out regulations. Some people think the rules don't apply to them, or they don't like the rules, so they are ignored. Others know it is wrong, but do their best to not get caught. On top of this we are sneaky creatures, and if there is a loophole someone will find it. This means regulations can be less effective than intended, and usually are. More study and regulations are then needed, as well as more enforcement.

The islands north of Saipan have little human activity compared the main islands, and have different regulation and enforcement needs. Anatahan and islands north are also young in terms of geological age compared to those south. It doesn't help most fish or coral in the short or medium run to have volcanic ash being dumped in the water either. The islands north do not have any encircling reefs or lagoons. They tend to drop off very quickly and have little in terms of protective shallows. This is important to understand because lagoons and shallows provide critical habitat for many non-pelagic juvenile fish. The resulting adult reef fish are then able to move to other islands.

Saipan should be a marine biomass bank for the rest of the NMI. Human activity and non-traditional fishing practices have caused a great decline in the fish biomass on and around the island. When I first arrived on Saipan there were no traffic signal lights. The next decade saw those and a substantial rise in human population and consequent fishing efforts. The practices with lesser negative effects are and were traditional fishing practices, non-scuba spearfishing, and trolling. Heinz Hofschnieder led the successful efforts for the MPA status of Managaha, Bird Island and other parts of Saipan we see today. It's not enough, however. The lagoon and near shore waters are still overfished by the sheer number of people fishing. Look at the beach during an e-e run. See as I did so often multiple boats pulling in huge gillnets after an all-night set (but don't ask me about the incident I had with some of those doing this). I've climbed down hundreds of fishing places on Saipan in search of big Giant Trevalle caught with lures. Nearly every place had the trash left from bait cliff fishing: empty bait boxes; hook packages, cigarette butts, etc. It was disgusting to look at and smell. The weights and line that accumulate on the bottom kill fish long after they are initially used—as a diving guide on Saipan I saw this, and any current guide will tell you the same thing. Traditional leaders in the past made rules as to when, how, and who would fish. This, combined with the gear used, resulted in stable high biomass numbers. It is non-traditional fishing practices and efforts that have caused biomass to greatly decline. Just look at Guam's reefs to see this.

> *Fishing is not a right, it's a privilege. If you want the biomass to heal itself you must remove the fishing pressure. More MPAs are needed and an exponential reduction in fishing pressure by all but a few of the least harmful methods must be enacted. The political resistance will be large, but requiring a fishing license and fee for all non-traditional fishing must be considered.*

Fishing is not a right, it's a privilege. If you want the biomass to heal itself you must remove the fishing pressure. More MPAs are needed and an exponential reduction in fishing pressure by all but a few of the least harmful methods must be enacted. The political resistance will be large, but requiring a fishing license and fee for all non-traditional fishing must be considered.

The greatest negative effect of human activity on near shore marine biomass in the whole CNMI has taken place on Saipan. If you really wish to help the local environment, your attentions and efforts should be focused here, not where there is little human interaction and threat.

William McCue
Wellington, FL

Pass the Luna Law

On the night of Sept. 27, my husband and I returned home to find our dog killed; she had been shot in the back of the head. The only people awake and around at the time were my neighbor and his friend, sitting less than 20 yards from where her body was found. They claimed that they did not see or hear anything. Quite frankly, this is not possible. From their location, they had a clear view of the backyard. As we picked up her lifeless body we could see them sitting and hear them talking. Her body was still warm to the touch, her nose was still damp. She felt like she was still alive, except she wasn't breathing. My husband even tried giving her CPR before we realized that there was a .22-caliber rifle bullet hole in the back of her head. The blood from the wound was bright red and fresh; it hadn't even started to coagulate. She was shot no more than 15 minutes before we arrived home.

Luna was a gentle, loving animal. She was never aggressive toward other animals or humans. Our neighbor's daughter even named her dog Muna (after Luna) because she liked her so much. We took her everywhere with us and people were always happy to see her. She loved being petted. Luna's only flaw was that she was an amazing jumper and would jump the four-foot fence to go play with our neighbors and their dogs. Whenever we found her out of the fence we would apologize to our neighbors and they always said "No problem, she is so nice, we don't mind." Luna was a part of our family. We don't have children. We have dogs and we love them as our children. The loss that we feel is immense. There is no justification for taking her life.

Pets are companions. According to the Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society International, there are many documented health, social, and physical benefits to owning and caring for a pet. They state, "Through helping to care for a pet, children also learn to care for their fellow human beings. There is an established link between how people treat animals and how they treat each other. *There is a strong connection between cruelty to animals and human violence.*"

Pets are good for our emotional and physical health. Caring for a companion animal can provide a sense of purpose and fulfillment and lessen feelings of loneliness and isolation in all age groups. It's well known that relaxed, happy people do not become ill as often as those who suffer from stress and depression. Animal companionship also helps lower a person's blood pressure and cholesterol levels. And studies show that having a dog increases survival rates in groups of patients who have suffered cardiac arrest. In addition, the National Institutes of Health has published countless articles on the health benefits (physical, emotional and social) of owning a pet.

When someone unjustly takes the life of a pet, they are not only taking something that doesn't belong to them, they are leaving the owners with a sense of emptiness, sadness and desperation. Is this what we want for our community? This kind of violence (all violence for that matter) is wrong. Our government officials are democratically elected and are supposed to be a voice for the people of the community they serve. The community has spoken, there needs to be a law that protects animals against cruelty and protects the rights of pet owners.

We urge the Legislation to pass an anti-cruelty bill that protects pets like Luna, and the people of this community, from unjustified, unnecessary, and unwarranted killings and animal cruelty. Passing House Bill 16-13 (which we would like to call Luna's Law) is not just to protect the rights of animals from cruelty and neglect, but it also protects the rights of the citizens of this community. This bill is not a waste of time or money. It does not put the rights of animals above the rights of humans. To the contrary, it supports the rights of people. If our property is damaged—someone hits our car or breaks our television—there are laws to protect us and punish those who unlawfully take our property. In a sense, pets are property. We own them for a purpose—they serve as guard dogs and/or companions. And they cost money to maintain, as we buy them food, take them to the veterinarian, and purchase animal-care products. Therefore, if someone enters my property and damages my property, my animal, there should be a law that protects the property owner. The only difference between an animal and a television or a car it that televisions and cars are just "stuff" and stuff can be replaced. Our dog cannot be replaced and the sorrow that we feel from her loss is immeasurable. It is time for the House and Senate to act on HB 16-13 and put an end to animal cruelty and build a healthier and safer community for all.

Lindsay Davis and Glenn Smith
via e-mail

Public apology

To the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island, I am writing this letter to officially apologize for the immoral conduct I committed while employed as a professional with the Department of Finance. What I committed was totally out of the context with my family values and upbringing. This inappropriate behavior had caused me my career. I sincerely ask for your understanding and acceptance and I promise that this type of immoral behavior would not be repeated.

Maria B. Masga

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-001

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Desktop Computer Systems and Accessories for Koblerville Elementary School (KoES)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-001" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 08, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-001 CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one(1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumtance.

Technical question shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax# (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PSS RFP 09-001

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing **Mental Health Consultation Services for the Public School System's Head Start Program**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-001" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 17, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-001 CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one(1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumtance.

Technical question shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax# (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 09-002

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Procurement of Janitorial Services for School Cafeterias**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-002" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **October 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-002, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-003

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **PSS Webmaster Services**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-003" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **October 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-003, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ **Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Juan D. Babauta**
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Interior proposes to protect 48 Hawaii species

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Applying a newly developed, ecosystem-based approach to species conservation, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced Wednesday a proposal to add 48 species found only on the island of Kauai to the federal endangered species list and designate critical habitat.

This new approach, undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provides hope for Kauai's natural ecosystems and the species that call them home. The 48 species include 45 plants, two birds and one Hawaiian picture-wing fly.

"By addressing the common threats that occur across these ecosystems, we can more effectively focus our conservation efforts on restoring the functions of these shared habitats," said Kempthorne. "This holistic approach will benefit the recovery of the listed species and also all the species within the native ecological community."

The new ecosystem-based approach to the listing and critical habitat designation process is designed to protect multiple species that occur in shared ecosystems and experience common threats. Critical habitat was identified using the best available scientific information.

"Kauai, the oldest island of the main Hawaiian Islands, has been called a 'treasure trove of biodiversity' and is believed to house the greatest diversity of plants in the state," said Patrick Leonard, Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office. "Therefore, it is appropriate that we begin this new approach to listing species and designating critical habitat in Kauai."

Over the next several years, the Service plans to use the ecosystem approach to propose listing and designating critical habitat for all of the endemic candidate species from the Hawaiian Islands, one rule each for Oahu, Hawaii and Maui Nui (Maui, Molokai and Lanai). The Service will also propose a single rule for Hawaiian species that are found on multiple islands. Each rule will propose endangered or threatened status for each species and will also propose critical habitat for species when prudent.

Wednesday's proposed listing of 48 species includes 45 plants, two Kauai birds—the akikiki and akekee—and one Hawaiian picture-wing fly.

The species are found in six ecosystem types ranging from rainforest mountains to moist lowlands and dry cliffs. Although most of the species are found in just a single ecosystem, a few of them occur in more than one of the ecosystems. A total of 22 separate geographic areas comprising 27,674 acres in 6 different ecosystem types are being proposed as critical habitat. Of the total proposed acres, 26,028 acres overlap existing critical habitat for other species and 1,646 acres are proposed as new critical habitat. The majority of the proposed critical habitat (21,704 acres) is located on State of Hawaii lands, while 5,970 acres are located on private lands owned by approximately 12 different landowners.

In today's proposal, critical habitat for one of the 48 species, the plant *Pritchardia hardyi,* was considered not prudent and is not being proposed because this rare palm is attractive to illegal collectors. A critical habitat designation could increase its risk of collection by alerting collectors to its location.

This proposed rule departs significantly from the Service's recent efforts to designate critical habitat for threatened and endangered species in Hawaii. In the past, the Service focused critical habitat designations on small areas known to be recently occupied by the species. However, the Service rarely had species-specific information sufficient enough to determine if those areas occupied by the remaining individuals of a species were the best areas to emphasize for future conservation efforts.

Species that are endemic to single islands are inherently more vulnerable to extinction than widespread species because of the higher risks posed to a few populations and individuals by genetic bottlenecks, random demographic fluctuations, climate change and localized catastrophes such as hurricanes and disease outbreaks. These problems are further magnified when populations are few and restricted to a very limited geographic area and the number of individuals is very small.

All of the Kauai species are threatened by ongoing destruction or modification of habitat due to feral ungulates such as pigs and goats, nonnative plants and hurricanes. Several Kauai species are threatened by destruction or modification of habitat due to fire, landslides and flooding. In addition to the threats to their habitat, one or more of the 48 species are threatened by limited numbers, predation, competition from nonnative plants, lack of reproduction, diseases, vandalism and over collection. ***(DOI)***

WHAT'S AHEAD

The proposal was sent to the Federal Register Wednesday for publication, which will begin a 60-day public comment period. During the 60-day public comment period the Service is accepting all comments on the proposed rule but is specifically seeking information concerning:

- Biological, commercial trade or other relevant data concerning threats (or lack thereof)to these species;
- Additional information about the range, distribution and population sizes of these species, including the locations of any additional populations;
- Any information on the biological or ecological requirements of these species;
- Current or planned activities in the areas occupied by these species and possible impacts of these activities on these species;
- Which areas would be appropriate as critical habitat for these species and why they should be proposed for designation as critical habitat; and
- Reasons why areas should or should not be designated as critical habitat, and why the benefits of designation would outweigh threats to the species that a designation could cause, to ensure that the designation of critical habitat is prudent.

Once the proposal is published in the Federal Register in the near future, comments may be sent via the Internet to http://www.regulations.gov. Comments may also be mailed or hand-delivered to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-RA-ES-2008-0046; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222; Arlington, VA 22203. All comments and materials received will be made available for public inspection.

Copies of the proposed rule may be downloaded from the Service's website at www.fws.gov/pacificislands or by calling the Fish and Wildlife Service's Honolulu office at 808-792-9400. ***(DOI)***

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated left, poses with anti-domestic violence advocates, including Family Court judge Kenneth Govendo, seated right, during Tuesday's proclamation signing declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time for collective action, a time for our community to unite to mourn those who have died as a result of abuse, a time to celebrate those who have survived, a time to connect with those who work to end violence, and a time to raise public awareness about domestic violence. This year's theme is "Empowering the Community for Change."

TECH GRADUATES KRISTI EATON

Man'amko Elena Villanueva, standing, third from left, and Rosario Ibanez, right, recently completed a basic computer class and are honored for this accomplishment during the swearing in of the new Man'amko Advisory Council officers Tuesday at the Office on Aging.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bookmobile at Sabalu Market

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library/Children of our Homeland Center said that its Bookmobile will be at the Civic Center beside the Sabalu Market from 9am to 11am tomorrow, Saturday, Oct. 4. ***(PR)***

SSHS mid-progress reports

To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School Students: The mid-progress report is scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 4pm to 7pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents/legal guardian visit. All students will be released at 1pm. ***(PR)***

Palau Independence Day celebration tomorrow

This is to inform all Palauans residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands that the Palauan Community Association-CNMI and all the 16 States will host the country's 14th Independence Day celebration tomorrow, Oct. 4, Saturday, at the American Memorial Park Pavilion, from 7am to 6pm. All Palauans are invited to come and join and celebrate. There will be live band entertainment, games, and many other activities. For more information, contact the Palau Consulate at 235-6804. ***(PR)***

OPA hotline numbers

This is to inform the public that the Office of the Public Auditor's hotline telephone numbers for Rota and Tinian has been disconnected. Instead, call the Saipan hotline number, 235-3934, which is toll free for inter-island calls. ***(OPA)***

MHS Class of 2008 yearbooks

This is to inform all members of the Marianas High School's Class of 2008 that the yearbooks are in. You can pick up your yearbooks from the MHS Main Office, Monday to Friday, from 3:30pm to 5pm. For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Live fire training at FDM

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla today, Oct. 3, from 9am to 6:30pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area today.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

Island Snapshots

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tour agents and media from the Asiana familiarization tour pose for photos at the Bird Sanctuary on Rota.

FAMILIARIZATION TOUR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tour agents and media from the Asiana familiarization tour pose for photos at Laolao Bay Golf Resort on Saipan.

INAUGURAL FLIGHT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority officials led by managing director Perry Tenorio, right, pose with the flight crew of the inaugural Shanghai-Saipan flight of Shanghai Airlines early Tuesday morning at the Saipan International Airport.

PHYSICAL EXAM CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students at Saipan Southern line up this past Saturday to take their physical exams for the upcoming sports season for high school interscholastic sports. A total of 107 students from SSHS received physical exams from three local physicians who offered their time to come to SSHS and perform the exams. SSHS hopes to field teams in baseball, softball, soccer, outrigger, football, and basketball this year for both boys and girls. All student athletes at SSHS are required to take physical examinations and maintain a minimum grade point average as well as having no current disciplinary referrals to be eligible for team sports.

PREL DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan along with BOE chair Lucia Blanco-Maratita and vice chair Herman Guerrero present Saipan Southern High School principal Peter James Le'au and SSHS band instructor William DeWitt and class a check for $3,500 on behalf of the Pacific Regional Educational Laboratories board of directors for the purchase a new Tuba instrument for the band. The school was host to the PREL board's annual meeting earlier this year and its members were impressed with the accomplishments of the SSHS band. Several SSHS band members recently just returned from playing at the 2008 Olympics in Bejing China, another first for the CNMI. From left to right, Sablan, Le'au, Guerrero, DeWitt, Blanco-Maratita, and student Felevan Fitial.

SVES DONORS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The San Vicente Elementary School expressed its appreciation three community members for supporting the school: Annie Demapan-Castro of Isla Financial for an educational tax credit donation of $2,500, shown here posing with SVES students; Sen. Louis Crisostomo for his generous ETC donation of $1,000; Sen. Pete Reyes for his generous donation of a photocopying machine.

STAYWELL DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jesse Torres, StayWell Saipan manager, presents an educational tax credit check to Tom Weindl, principal of Whispering Palms School. StayWell would like to remind businesses to take advantage of the Educational Tax Credit, program which allows businesses to donate up to $5,000 per year and count it toward business gross receipt tax payments.

BRIDGE CAPITAL DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan-based Bridge Capital, LLC has donated $5,000 and is a major corporate sponsor for this year's annual American Red Cross Club 200 fundraising dinner and raffle. "Bridge Capital has set a high standard of giving and strong civic involvement by supporting the Red Cross," said John D. Guerrero, board member and Club 200 Co-Chair. Bridge Capital is represented here by David Jensen, chief financial officer; Richard Moreno, general counsel; and Jon A. Anderson, loan officer. Representing the Red Cross is John D. Guerrero and Viola Sablan Bridge Capital, LLC is a financial services company based in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that specializes in real estate acquisition, development, financing, and corporate lending. They provide an array of financial advisory services to assist clients in corporate restructuring, project finance, and capital planning.

Business

Senate passes $700B rescue; House votes lured

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS and CHARLES BABINGTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP)—After one spectacular failure, the $700 billion financial industry bailout found a second life Wednesday, winning lopsided passage in the Senate and gaining ground in the House, where Republicans opposition softened.

Senators loaded the economic rescue bill with tax breaks and other sweeteners before passing it by a wide margin, 74-25, a month before the presidential and congressional elections.

In the House, leaders were working feverishly to convert enough opponents of the bill to push it through by Friday, just days after lawmakers there stunningly rejected an earlier version and sent markets plunging around the globe.

The measure didn't cause the same uproar in the Senate, where both parties' presidential candidates, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama, made rare appearances to cast "aye" votes, as did Obama's running mate, Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware.

Bipartisan support

In the final vote, 39 Democrats, 34 Republicans and independent Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut voted "yes." Nine Democrats, 15 Republicans and independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont voted "no."

President Bush issued a statement praising the Senate's move. With the revisions, Bush said, "I believe members of both parties in the House can support this legislation. The American people expect and our economy demands that the House pass this good bill this week and send it to my desk."

AP

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., center, with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-KY, right and Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., left, Sen. Max Baucus, R-Mont., second from left, and Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., speak at news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008.

IT&E unveils new logo, tagline

Also launches next generation network

IT&E unveiled its new logo and tagline last Wednesday, Oct. 1, at the Hyatt Regency Guam in Tumon. Over 100 government, business, and community leaders joined ITE and PTI associates in celebrating IT&E's new logo and tagline while getting a look at the new $10-million next generation EVDO Rev A. network that is currently being deployed on Guam.

The main color of the IT&E logo remains blue, symbolizing the company's continued commitment to the local Guam community. The blue button fringed inside a brushed-silver finish frame, in which the name IT&E nestles is about the sleek, clean, and progressive image of technology. The frame symbolizes a window to the future and the fact that IT&E will constantly bring the latest technology to its customers. It is classic and simple, rendered in a manner that also reflects the company's corporate tradition.

Also, unveiled was IT&E's new tagline, "Life in Motion."

"It was chosen because of the constant change in technology that allows people to do more that ever away from home," said Ricky Delgado, president and CEO of IT&E. "The tagline 'Life in Motion' means that there is no need to be at home or in the office to be fully connected to the world," he added.

The new network is backed by a progressive web of cutting-edge technology that aims to deliver a new standard of telecommunication service that will define the industry and inspire the community it serves. IT&E's EVDO Rev. A high speed network is the same used by U.S. telecom giants Verizon Wireless and Sprint who have well over half of the U.S. wireless market.

Last month in the CNMI, PTI was the first in Micronesia to launch an EV-DO high-speed mobile broadband network. IT&E and PTI now offer the first and fastest next generation mobile broadband network serving Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The network will feature speeds up to 10 times faster than the current 1XRTT wireless data network. EV-DO Rev. A offers customers the ability to access email, photos, spreadsheets and other large files via their phone or laptop at unprecedented speeds.

Customers will also enjoy a new world of entertainment as their phones can easily access social networking sites such as MySpace, Facebook and Friendster. The ability to watch streaming video from the Internet as well as the ability to upload videos to popular sharing sites like YouTube from a wireless phone makes this next generation mobile broadband a must. IT&E will offer customers the opportunity to "Go Unlimited" with one of the new IT&E unlimited data packages. Both companies offer regional home coverage that will allow customers to use high speed data in Guam or the CNMI at no additional costs.

"We are extremely excited about the potential of our growing network and in keeping with the IT&E tradition, want to be known as a local company focused on bringing the world's finest mobile broadband technology not just to places that make economic sense but to all the customers we serve. The fact that we cover both Guam and the CNMI is testament to our long- term commitment to the people of Guam and the region," said Delgado.

The PTI Group is the largest telecommunications company in the Marianas with over 75,000 total subscribers on four islands.

It was purchased from Verizon by Prospector Holdings Inc. of the Philippine-based Delgado family in September of 2005. In 2006, Sumitomo Corporation invested $25 million as a long-term strategic partner. Together both companies continue to work closely to expand the group of companies with a long term regional orientation in mind. ***(IT&E)***

Asian stocks fall despite Senate rescue plan vote

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets retreated Thursday as broader concerns about a global economic slowdown outweighed any relief over the U.S. Senate's passage of the bailout package to rescue the U.S. financial system.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average lost 1.1 percent at 11,242.65, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slipped 0.9 percent to 17,850.13.

Benchmarks in Australia, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan were also in negative territory.

In Washington Wednesday, the Senate approved a revised rescue bill with tax breaks and other sweeteners by a vote of 74-25. The House of Representatives votes on the plan Friday.

But even if the package is approved, investors are skeptical about the bailout's ultimate impact on a faltering global economy, analysts said.

"Investors are still concerned about the efficiency of this rescue plan and how it can help the global economy," said Aric Au, marketing manager for institutional sales at Phillip Securities in Hong Kong. "But at this moment, nobody is sure about this. They need to have more information about the finalized plan."

Japanese automakers took a big hit after the industry reported dismal September sales figures in the U.S.—their key export market.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SEC extends short-sell ban for financials

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators on Wednesday extended an unprecedented ban against all short-selling in the shares of more than 800 financial companies, keeping it in place at least until after Congress enacts a massive financial bailout plan. The Securities and Exchange Commission announced the extension of the ban, which was put in on Sept. 18 in a bid to shore up investor confidence in the face of the spiraling market crisis. The ban, which was to expire Thursday, now will last until the third business day after enactment of the $700 billion financial bailout plan now before Congress. It will end no later than Oct. 17. Late Wednesday, the Senate passed the bailout plan, which appeared to be gaining ground in the House, where Republican's opposition softened. The idea is that the extension will give enough time for financial markets to calm, with bailout program's plan to buy up Wall Street's toxic mortgage debt possibly starting to have a positive effect. By law, the SEC's emergency ban could not be extended beyond Oct. 17.

Oil rises above $99 on US bailout hopes

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose above $99 a barrel Thursday in Asia on expectations the U.S. Congress will pass a reformulated $700 billion financial industry bailout package this week that will help stabilize a faltering economy. Light, sweet crude for November delivery was up 80 cents to $99.33 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. Prices fell overnight $2.11 to settle at $98.53. "It's probably going to be bullish in the short term if the plan is approved," said Jonathan Kornafel, Asia director for market maker Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore. "It shows we're actually doing something, which would be a reprieve for the market." The U.S. Senate late Wednesday approved the rescue bill, 74-25, after adding $110 billion in tax breaks for businesses and the middle class, plus a provision to raise, from $100,000 to $250,000, the cap on federal deposit insurance.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,798.300	Down 16.200 (-0.34%)
HONG KONG	17,793.52	Down 222.69 (-1.24%)
JAKARTA	1,832.507	Down 13.584 (-0.74%)
TOKYO	11,208.99	Down 159.27 (-1.40%)
K. LUMPUR	1,018.68	Down 1.04 (-0.10%)
MANILA	2,612.89	Up 43.24 (+1.68%)
SINGAPORE	2,339.28	Down 19.63 (-0.83%)
SEOUL	1,417.76	Down 21.91 (-1.52%)
BANGKOK	595.98	Up1.53 (+0.26%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,831.07	-19.59
NASDAQ	2,069.40	-22.48
S&P	1,161.06	0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2645
British Pound	0.5655
Canadian Dollar	1.0641
Chinese Renmbi	6.8451
Euro	0.7168
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7687
Indian Rupee	46.63
Indonesian Rupiah	9430
Japanese Yen	105.783
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4465
New Zealand Dollar	1.4879
Philippine Peso	46.903
Singapore Dollar	1.4393
South Korean Won	1220.55
Swiss Franc	1.1283
Taiwan Dollar	32.12
Thailand Baht	34.055

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Beware of inflated real estate appraisals

By DAVID UFFINGTON
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If you're trying to refinance your home, once you've finished jumping for joy over a high appraisal, sit back and consider the consequences of taking out a mortgage for the full amount. The same can be said for homebuyers making an offer: When the appraisal is much higher than you expected, you need to beware.

The dilemma starts with appraisers who are often pushed to inflate the value of homes by lenders who make more money on a higher loan. The pressure on an appraiser can be immense, especially with fewer sales to go around. Add in a cash incentive to cooperate, and you have inflated appraisals. The majority of appraisers are scrupulously honest, but many of them have been run out of business for refusing to inflate values.

The problems with inflated appraisals come into play should you ever want to sell or refinance. Just when you need to pull out cash in a refinance, or to refinance just ahead of a jump in your adjustable-rate mortgage, you could discover that there isn't any equity because you owe more than the home is really worth. Or if you try to sell, you could end up selling for much less than you owe. Worse case, you could lose your home to foreclosure.

If you run into a problem down the road because of an inflated appraisal, don't look for much help from the authorities. Because of federal regulations, some states have mechanisms in place to go after appraisers who routinely inflate the value of homes, but for the most part you'll get no satisfaction and no money back.

Things to watch for:

■ If the lender promises a high appraisal, beware.

■ If the appraiser works for the lender, double beware.

■ If you're told you're in luck, that the appraiser has a break in his schedule and can be at your house in an hour, decline that appointment. Before the appraiser arrives at your house, do an online search for both the appraiser and the appraiser's company. Look for any warnings or complaints.

Check online sources to try to determine the real value of your home or the one you hope to buy. Realtor.com is one of the best, but also check the sites of agents in your area.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

NEW F-150 LAUNCHED AP

The 2009 F150 pickup truck is displayed in front of the Kansas City Ford Assembly Plant in Claycomo, Mo., Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008. The launch of the new pickup will be celebrated during ceremonies at the plant Thursday.

Continental sponsors Guam trip for journalists from Japan

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Journalists from some of the leading consumer publications in Japan arrived on Guam yesterday on a five-day familiarization tour of the island.

Continental Airlines is sponsoring this tour with the Sand Castle, the Hyatt Regency Guam, and DFS to help stimulate travel and awareness of Guam as a desired destination.

The demographic these regional and national magazines, newspapers, and radio stations target are general consumers, office ladies, and business professionals in their 30s and high-end consumers in their 40s and above.

By sponsoring this group of 13 journalists from four cities in Japan, the sponsors expect exposure to more than 1.1 million consumers nationwide, especially in Sapporo, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, and Tokyo.

"Continental is committed to Guam's growth. We are very excited to join our partners on

this activity to help promote Guam as an excellent leisure destination for various segments of consumers in Japan," said David Kendell, Continental Micronesia Sales and Marketing Director for Asia and Micronesia.

Celebrating 40 years of service in Guam and Micronesia, Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Continental Airlines, Continental Micronesia employs 1,400 men and women and offers more than 246 departures each week between 22 cities throughout the Pacific Rim, the Micronesian Islands and Hawaii with a fleet of 12 next-generation Boeing 737 and 767 aircraft.

In addition, Continental Micronesia and its code share partner Cape Air operate 86 weekly commuter service flights between Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. Continental, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 2,500 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 131 domestic and 131 international destinations. More than 550 additional points are served via SkyTeam alliance airlines. With more than 44,000 employees, Continental has hubs serving New York, Houston, Cleveland and Guam, and together with Continental Express, carries approximately 69 million passengers per year.

Continental consistently earns awards and critical acclaim for both its operation and its corporate culture. For the fifth consecutive year, FORTUNE magazine named Continental the No. 1 World's Most Admired Airline on its 2008 list of World's Most Admired Companies. For more company information, go to continental.com. ***(Continental Micronesia)***

Think hard before recommending a friend

A reader writes:

"I just found out that a friend who was hired by my employer in part at my suggestion is not working out and may be terminated. I feel really bad for the obvious reason (personal friendship) but also because I did not come clean to our supervisor during the hiring process.

"He believed he discerned signs of what I will call excessive emotionalism (for want of a better term) during the interview process. When he asked me about this, I said I had never seen this behavior. In fact, I had in our personal relationship but thought she would have better sense than to display it in a work context. Apparently not.

"Certainly, I will be very wary of recommending a friend for any job in my workplace in the future. And the irony is I was once on the wrong end of one of these hiring decisions (recommended by a friend for what turned out to be a bad fit) and it killed a 10-year friendship. Any advice for getting through this period at work?"

The response:

I don't think that the lesson you should glean from this experience is that you should be wary of recommending your friends for jobs. Rather, make sure that your judgment about whether the person fits the job is not clouded by your desire to help give them a break. If your friend has a tendency to become overly emotional, then perhaps your principal mistake was not in playing down her faults to your supervisor, but rather

By LILY GARCIA
Special to The Washington Post

Garcia, whose column regularly appears on WashingtonPost.com, has offered employment law and human resources advice to companies of all sizes for 10 years.

in recommending her for the job to begin with.

In general, I also question the wisdom of seeking to work alongside close friends in the same department or team. Working with close friends will tend to make work more personal, and this will lead you to respond with less discernment to ordinary workplace issues. It is hard enough to face the prospect of a colleague's termination. It is quite another thing to know that your good buddy might lose her job at the hands of your supervisor.

Your question was how to deal with all of this. It is unclear to me whether you learned of your friend's possible termination from her or from some other source. If your friend does not know that she might be fired and if (and only if) you can trust her not to betray your confidence, then you should tell her where she stands. This will give her a chance to find another job before being fired and compounding the damage to her career. If you cannot trust your friend to keep quiet about the news, then you have no choice but to keep it to yourself and plan to be there for her as a support if she is ultimately let go.

The best posture for you will be to remain as neutral as possible. You can amply support your friend, in other words, without disparaging your employer. Whatever becomes of her, you still work there. And, from the sound it, you have no immediate desire to leave. So you need to make sure that you conduct yourself throughout this process in a way that does not damage your reputation as a loyal employee.

Which brings me to your relationship with your employer. It is no doubt conspicuous to your supervisor that your friend is behaving with "excessive emotionalism" when you specifically denied that she has such tendencies. This disagreement between your recommendation and the empirical data might cause your boss to question your judgment, or he might just assume that, like any good friend, you were trying to cast your friend in the best possible light. Your credibility as a source of referrals has been compromised. However, as long as you remain a solid employee, I would not worry too much about how your friend's departure might affect your relationship with your boss.

If your friend is fired and you feel a desire to do something to smooth things over, I would recommend approaching your boss to tell him how much you regret how things turned out. You can do this without putting down your friend or admitting that you had your doubts about her ability to succeed. Again, neutrality is paramount.

Nation

AP poll: Obama takes a 7-point lead over McCain

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama has surged to a seven-point lead over John McCain one month before the presidential election, lifted by voters who think the Democrat is better suited to lead the nation through its sudden financial crisis, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll that underscores the mounting concerns of some McCain backers.

Likely voters now back Obama 48-41 percent over McCain, a dramatic shift from an AP-GfK survey that gave the Republican a slight edge nearly three weeks ago, before Wall Street collapsed and sent ripples across worldwide markets. On top of that, unrelated surveys show Obama beating McCain in several battlegrounds, including Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania and Iowa—four states critical in the state-by-state fight for the presidency.

Several GOP strategists close to McCain's campaign privately fret that his chances for victory are starting to slip away.

These Republicans, speaking on condition of anonymity to avoid angering the campaign, point to several factors: Obama's gains nationally and in traditionally GOP states, no McCain boost from the first debate, McCain's struggles with economic issues as the financial crisis has unfolded and deepening public skepticism about his running mate, Sarah Palin.

They said McCain's options for shaking up the race are essentially limited to game-changing performances in the final presidential debates or in Palin's vice presidential debate Thursday night with Joe Biden. Short of that, they said, McCain can do little but hope Obama stumbles or an outside event breaks the GOP nominee's way.

Democrats hope Obama is starting to build a lasting lead.

"We have a light optimism," said David Redlawsk, a delegate to the Democratic National Convention who teaches political science at the University of Iowa. "We've already learned in the last several weeks that we can be whipsawed back very, very quickly."

Not all Republican insiders are pessimistic.

Obama's failure to achieve a double-digit lead and maintain it "has given a lot of hope to Republicans," GOP pollster Whit Ayres said. Yet he also allowed, "You can't have a playing field that leans this heavily toward the Democrats and not be nervous."

The AP-GfK poll shows McCain faces substantial hurdles.

With the perilous financial situation at the forefront of voters' minds, 60 percent in the survey say it's more important to them to choose a president who would make the right economic decisions than a commander in chief who would make the right decisions on national security. Obama leads among economic voters, with 63 percent support, while McCain is ahead among security voters, with 73 percent.

Obama led McCain on the questions of who would best improve the economy and handle the financial crisis. The Democrat also was seen as more likely than the Republican to understand how the crisis effects the average person.

As the two senators prepared to vote late Wednesday on the administration's $700 billion bailout plan, 16 percent of likely voters said they thought McCain hurt negotiations over the proposal when he bolted back to Washington last week to get involved. Just 5 percent thought Obama did damage when he returned after a summons by President Bush to attend a White House meeting on the crisis.

Adding to McCain's woes, just 25 percent of likely voters say Palin has the right experience to be president if needed, a huge drop from 41 percent in the previous poll last month. She posted an enormous loss in confidence among Republicans; three in four had called her experienced enough before, but not even half say that now.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., gets out of the car to board the plane at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Va. Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008.

Estimates show Palin assets top $1 million

WASILLA, Alaska (AP)—Sarah Palin and her husband have pieced together a uniquely Alaskan income that reached comfortably into six figures even before she became governor, capitalizing on valuable fishing rights, a series of land deals and a patchwork of other ventures to build an above-average lifestyle.

Add up the couple's 2007 income and the estimated value of their property and investments and they appear to be worth at least $1.2 million. That would make the Palins, like Democratic vice presidential rival Joe Biden and his wife Jill, well-off but not nearly as wealthy as multimillionaire couples John and Cindy McCain and, to a lesser extent, Barack and Michelle Obama.

One measure of financial health: While there is a home loan, Palin reported no personal credit card debt on her most recent financial report as Alaska governor. That compares to average household credit card debt among Americans of $9,840 last year.

A more complete picture will come when Sarah Palin outlines her personal finances in federal paperwork in coming days. It will include details of any mortgage debt and at least rough dollar totals for bank accounts and investments.

Palin this week characterized herself as "an everyday, working-class American" who knows how it feels when the stock market takes a hit.

The Palins' total income last year was split almost evenly between Sarah Palin's white-collar job and her husband's blue-collar work. Sarah Palin's salary as governor was $125,000; Todd Palin took in $46,790 as a part-time oil production operator for BP Alaska in Prudhoe Bay, plus $46,265 in commercial fishing income and $10,500 in Iron Dog snowmachine race winnings. These figures do not include nearly $17,000 in per diem payments Palin received for 312 nights spent in her own home since she was elected governor; she also has received $43,490 to cover travel costs for her husband and children.

October remains the month for political surprises

BOSTON (AP)—Heading into the final weekend of the 2004 presidential campaign, John Kerry was feeling good about his chances of winning the White House.

The Democratic nominee thought he had bested President Bush in their three prime-time debates. He also felt he'd convinced Americans his military and foreign affairs experience left him better equipped to end the Iraqi war.

Then Osama bin Laden weighed in with the most recent "October surprise" to land with a thud on a presidential campaign.

Kerry believes bin Laden cost him the presidency by issuing a videotape that criticized Bush and warned U.S. voters that "your security is in your own hands" in the election. And the Massachusetts senator thinks that's instructive for both Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain during the final month of their campaign.

From Henry Kissinger's declaration that "peace is at hand" in Vietnam a month before the 1972 election, to a report just before the 2000 vote that George W. Bush had once been arrested for drunken driving, last-minute sensations have demonstrated the potential to reshape a race.

"It changed the entire dynamic of the last five days," Kerry said this week of the bin Laden tape. "We saw it in the polling. There was no other intervening event. We saw the polls freeze and then we saw them drop a point, because all the security moms, it agitated people over 9/11."

Kerry added, "Whenever you're close to an election, things have more impact, you don't have time to respond, you don't have time to change the dynamics backwards."

That certainly was the concern in 1980, the election year that spawned the term "October surprise." In a twist of fate, the name grew out of a fear that never was realized.

Republican Ronald Reagan was challenging Democratic incumbent Jimmy Carter in 1980. Precisely a year before Election Day, a group of Islamic radicals had stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, and seized American hostages.

Ike evacuees complain of violence at shelter

TYLER, Texas (AP)—As Hurricane Ike blew through Texas, a different kind of storm was brewing inside an old Wal-Mart hastily converted into a shelter for evacuees.

The building, vacant for two years, quickly became a cauldron of tension, with 1,600 people crammed into a structure with a leaky roof, few indoor bathrooms and almost no privacy. Fights soon broke out, and one ended after police allegedly used pepper spray on dozens of evacuees and a Taser on a 15-year-old boy.

Accounts of what happened in the Wal-Mart, drawn from interviews and public records obtained by The Associated Press, raise questions about the soundness of the state's evacuation plan.

Days before Ike hit the Gulf Coast on Sept. 13, more than 3,000 Beaumont residents were taken by bus to Tyler even though the city had told the state it could accommodate only about half that number. The result was a chaotic experience that many won't soon forget.

"I thought, `Oh Lord, just get us out of here,'" said Verlinda Antoine, 52. "The conditions were too bad for anyone, and they treated us like they didn't want us there. It was a nightmare."

Many claimed that the building was unsanitary and that fear of crime and violence was constant.

When a fight between two women in a smoking area attracted numerous onlookers on the second night, police swarmed. Four people, including two juveniles, were arrested on charges that included disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer.

"People refused to move out of the way and wouldn't stop fighting," Tyler Police Chief Gary Swindle said. The Taser was used after a couple of people threatened an officer with a chair, he said.

But some evacuees tell a different story, saying police were overly aggressive and used racial slurs.

Bloomberg could breeze over obstacles to 3rd term

NEW YORK (AP)—In order to seek a third term, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has to circumvent a term-limits law, convince a previously wary public that such limits are negotiable and then win what could be a three-way race.

But the about-face may not prove as difficult as it sounds for the mayor, who has billions of dollars in the bank and the support of former foes, and could soothe New Yorkers' anxiety about the wavering economy.

"It's going to happen," Baruch College public affairs professor Doug Muzzio said Wednesday about a possible third term for Bloomberg. "He's going to spend whatever it takes to make it happen. ... It's pocket change to him."

Bloomberg was expected to announce his plans Thursday, a day after a person briefed on the matter told The Associated Press that the mayor had decided to abandon his long-standing support for the term-limits law and seek a third consecutive term so he could help the city deal with the crisis on Wall Street. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the announcement hadn't been made.

Fossett search teams see what looks like wreckage

MAMMOTH LAKES, Calif. (AP)—Search teams combing a rugged part of eastern California for any sign of Steve Fossett, the adventurer who vanished on a solo flight more than a year ago, have spotted what appeared to be wreckage Wednesday, authorities said.

Erica Stuart, spokeswoman for the Madera County Sheriff's Office, would not reveal the exact location of the reported aerial sighting, which she said was called in around sunset.

Searchers had been combing a 10-mile radius around the spot where a hiker had found what appeared to be a pilot's license and other items belonging to Fossett earlier in the week.

A ground team was en route to the site Wednesday night, and authorities would be able to confirm there is actual wreckage and whether it belongs to Fossett on Thursday morning, Stuart said.

Authorities, however, cautioned that hundreds of planes have gone down in the mountainous region, so any wreckage found could belong to other cases.

The hiker, Preston Morrow, said he found a pilot's license, a glider license, a third ID and $1,005 in cash tangled in a bush off a trail just west of the town of Mammoth Lakes on Monday. He said he turned the items over to local police Wednesday after unsuccessful attempts to contact Fossett's family.

The information on the pilot license—including Fossett's name, address, date of birth and certificate number—matched Federal Aviation Administration's records, spokesman Ian Gregor said.

"We're trying to determine the authenticity of the document," Gregor said.

Search teams led by the Madera County Sheriff's Department went to the scene of the find Wednesday but found no sign of a plane or any human remains.

Fossett, whose exploits included circumnavigating the globe in a balloon, disappeared Sept. 3, 2007, after taking off in a single-engine plane borrowed from a Nevada ranch owned by hotel magnate Barron Hilton. A judge declared Fossett legally dead in February following a search for the famed aviator that covered 20,000 square miles.

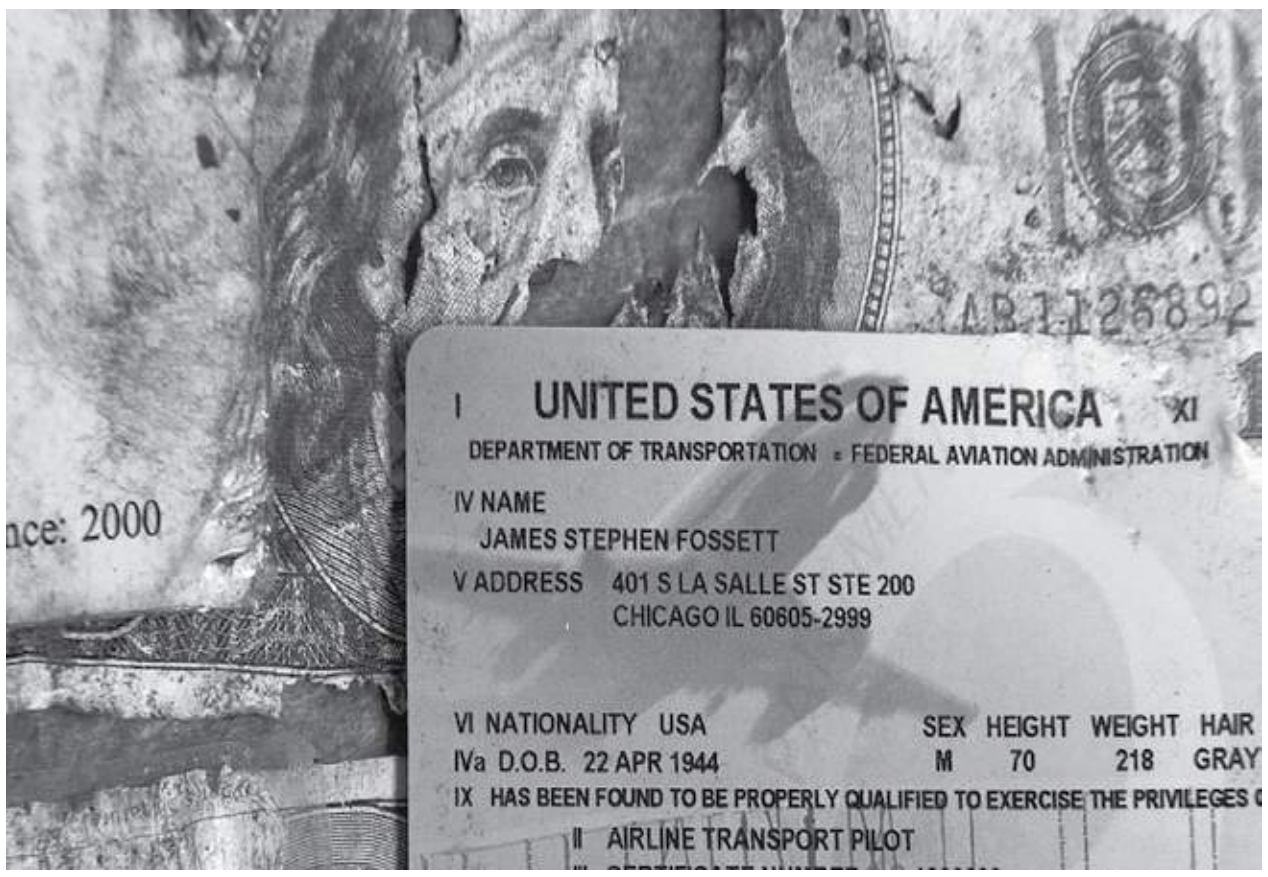
Fossett's widow, Peggy, said in a statement Wednesday that she was aware of Morrow's discovery. "I am hopeful that this search will locate the crash site and my husband's remains," she said. "I am grateful to all of those involved in this effort."

Aviators had flown over Mammoth Lakes, about 90 miles south of the ranch, in the search for Fossett, but it had not been considered a likely place to find the plane.

Morrow, 43, who works in a Mammoth Lakes sporting goods store, said he initially didn't know who Fossett was. It wasn't until he showed the items to co-workers Tuesday that one of them recognized Fossett's name.

"It was just weird to find that much money in the backcountry, and the IDs," he said in an interview. "My immediate thought was it was a hiker or backpacker's stuff, and a bear got to the stuff and took it away to look for food or whatever."

Morrow said he returned to the scene Tuesday to search further with his wife and three others. The group found a black Nautica pullover fleece, size XL, in the same area, but he wasn't sure if the items were related.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AP

This image made from video taken by Discovery Channel/LMNO Productions shows a pilot's license and a torn $100 bill found Monday, Sept. 29, 2008 by hiker Preston Morrow in a rugged part of eastern California. Morrow found the license and other items that appear to belong to Steve Fossett, the adventurer who vanished on a solo flight more than a year ago, authorities said Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008.

Train engineer texted 22 seconds before LA crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A commuter train engineer sent a cell phone text message 22 seconds before his commuter train crashed head-on into freight train in Southern California last month, killing 25 people, federal investigators said Wednesday.

Cell phone records of Robert Sanchez, who was among the dead, show he received a text message a minute and 20 seconds before the crash and sent one about a minute later, the National Transportation Safety Board said in a news release.

The finding led Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph H. Boardman to announce an emergency order prohibiting use of personal electronic devices by rail workers operating trains and in other key jobs. The order must be published in the Federal Register to take effect. Spokesman Rob Kulat said that would happen "soon." California regulators have already enacted a ban.

Investigators are looking into why Sanchez ran through a red signal before the Metrolink train collided with a Union Pacific train Sept. 12 on a curve in the San Fernando Valley community of Chatsworth. The time of the final text suggests it is unlikely he had become incapacitated for some reason.

The records obtained from Sanchez's cell phone provider also show that he sent 24 text messages and received 21 over a two-hour period during his morning shift. During his afternoon shift, he received seven messages and sent five.

Sanchez sent his last text message at 4:22:01 p.m. According to the freight train's on-board recorder, the accident occurred at 4:22:23 p.m.

Metrolink board member Richard Katz said in an interview that the NTSB told his agency that another engineer on a Metrolink train has been suspended for sending a text message from his cell phone at about the same time as the Sept. 12 collision. That engineer was not identified.

Katz said Metrolink officials don't know whom the other engineer was texting.

Metrolink's engineers are supplied by a contractor, Veolia Transportation. A spokeswoman for the company, Erica Swerdlow, declined to comment on Katz's statements, saying she couldn't discuss personnel records. But she did say that the company has a strict policy on cell phone use and that anyone who violates it will face discipline.

NTSB investigators continue to correlate times from Sanchez's cell phone, the train recorders and data from the railroad signal system, officials said. The cellular records were subpoenaed from his service provider, but his actual phone was not found in the burned wreckage.

"I am pleased with the progress of this major investigation to date," acting NTSB Chairman Mark V. Rosenker said in a statement. "We are continuing to pursue many avenues of inquiry to find what caused this accident and what can be done to prevent such a tragedy in the future."

Candy with chemical in Chinese milk found in four Conn. stores

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—An industrial chemical blamed for sickening thousands of infants in China was found in candy in four Connecticut stores this week, a state official said Wednesday.

Days after contaminated White Rabbit Creamy Candy was found in California, Connecticut Consumer Protection Commissioner Jerry Farrell Jr. said tests found melamine in bags of the candy sold at two New Haven stores, a West Hartford market and an East Haven store.

"We're concerned, obviously, there may have been bags sold of these before we got to them," Farrell said.

Anyone who has the candy should destroy it, Farrell said.

The contamination has been blamed for the deaths of four children and kidney ailments among 54,000 others. More than 13,000 children have been hospitalized and 27 people arrested in connection with the tainting.

Melamine, which is high in nitrogen, is used to make plastics and fertilizers and experts say some amount of the chemical may be transferred from the environment during food processing. But in China's case, suppliers trying to boost output are believed to have diluted their milk, adding melamine because its nitrogen content can fool tests aimed at verifying protein content.

Melamine can cause kidney stones, leading to kidney failure. Infants are particularly vulnerable.

Melamine has been associated with contaminated infant formula and other Chinese products containing milk protein.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-teacher says middle schooler was a man to her

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A former math teacher sentenced to federal prison for a sex crime with a minor says the age of the 13-year-old schoolboy she fled with to Mexico didn't matter to her. "We didn't see age anymore. ... In my mind he quit being a teenage boy. ... to me, he was a man," Kelsey Peterson said in a taped interview on ABC's "Good Morning America" aired Wednesday. Peterson, 26, was sentenced Monday to six years in federal prison and five years of supervised release. She also must register as a sex offender. She pleaded guilty in July to a charge of transporting a minor across state lines to have sex. Peterson was the boy's sixth-grade math teacher at Lexington Middle School in south-central Nebraska during the 2005-06 school year and started having sex with him in November 2006, according to court documents. The pair disappeared in October, soon after the district's superintendent confronted Peterson about allegations of an inappropriate relationship with the boy. She was arrested a week later in Mexicali, Mexico, after the boy made a cell phone call to his family.

Uncle indicted in death of 12-year-old Vt. girl

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Federal prosecutors said Wednesday that a man charged with drugging, sexually assaulting and killing his 12-year-old niece coerced another girl into aiding his plot by claiming to be part of a child-sex club that sometimes selected girls for "termination." The federal grand jury in Rutland that indicted Michael Jacques also handed up special findings that would make him eligible for the death penalty if he is convicted of the charge of kidnapping with death resulting. Brooke Bennett, of Braintree, disappeared June 25 and was found dead a week later. Her disappearance triggered Vermont's first-ever Amber Alert, and state residents were shocked when her body was found in a shallow grave July 2. Other charges against Jacques, 42, of Randolph, in the indictment announced Wednesday include five child pornography counts. Two of Jacques' lawyers—public defender Michael Desautels and death penalty expert David Ruhnke—didn't return telephone calls seeking comment on the indictment.

Bourbon St. bouncer manslaughter cases dropped

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Prosecutors dropped manslaughter charges Wednesday against the last two Bourbon Street bouncers accused of suffocating a visiting Georgia college student to death after a dispute about getting into a French Quarter karaoke bar on New Year's Eve 2004. Levon Jones, 26, died on the sidewalk outside the Razzoo Bar and Patio with four bouncers pinning him down. Brandon Vicknair and Matthew Taylor, along with two other bouncers, had been accused of killing the student by pinning him to the ground and putting him in a choke hold. "The state has determined that the evidence against these remaining defendants would be insufficient to support a conviction," interium district attorney Robert L. Freeman, Jr., said in a statement issued late Wednesday. Jones' death on a street where tourists party night and day in music clubs, strip joints, bars and restaurants sparked questions of racism and discrimination. Jones was black and the bouncers are white. Police and prosecutors never detailed what role they believed each bouncer played.

Asia

Parents file lawsuit in China against dairy firm

BEIJING (AP)—The parents of a baby allegedly sickened by tainted infant formula are suing the dairy at the heart of China's contaminated milk scandal, state media reported, as 15 more companies were accused Wednesday of producing spiked products.

From the time of birth, the 1-year-old in central China's Henan province was fed infant formula made by Sanlu Group Co., according to a report by Caijing, a leading Chinese business magazine.

■ ■ ■

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's health minister says its tests have found minor doses of industrial chemical melamine in milk powders produced in China by the Switzerland-based Nestle.

Minister Yeh Chin-chuan says the milk powders were produced in Heilongjiang Province in northeastern China and they will be taken off shelves on Thursday as a temporary measure.

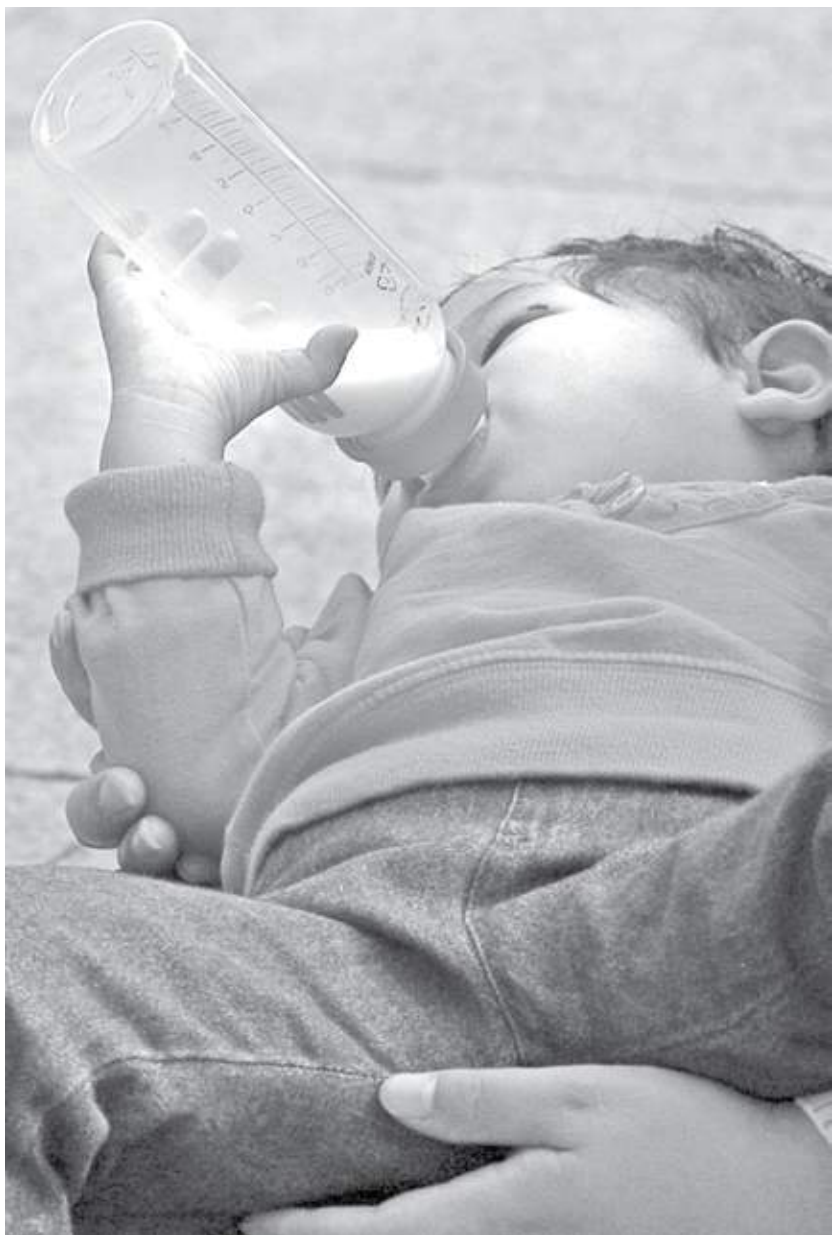
He says Taiwan will discuss with food safety experts from U.S., Japan, Europe and the World Health Organization to decide on whether to permit milk products containing minor doses of the chemical.

Melamine-contaminated milk has killed four babies and sickened more than 50,000 children in mainland China.

■ ■ ■

The report says the case is believed to be the first civil lawsuit filed in response to the melamine contamination of liquid milk, yogurt and other products made with milk. Four infants have died and some 54,000 have become ill after drinking the contaminated formula, which has been linked to kidney stones.

One of the child's parents, surnamed Sun, filed a lawsuit in a court in Zhenping county seeking $22,000 in compensation from Sanlu for medical, travel and other expenses incurred after the child developed kidney stones, the magazine said in a recent report. The report did not give the full name of the child or parents.



AP

A one-year-old Chinese girl drinks milk from a bottle in her mother's arms when taking a rest on Tiananmen Square in Beijing Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008. The parents of a baby allegedly sickened by tainted infant formula are suing the dairy at the heart of China's contaminated milk scandal, a lawyer said Thursday.

China's government, meanwhile, named 15 more Chinese dairy companies for producing products contaminated with melamine after a new series of tests. The contaminated samples were mostly milk powder products for adults.

Thirty-one samples of Chinese milk powder provided by 20 companies were found tainted with melamine after new testing, according to data seen Wednesday on China's food safety administration's Web site. It was a national holiday in China and product safety officials could not be reached for comment.

More than 13,000 children have been hospitalized and 27 people arrested in connection with the contamination. The scandal was worsened by an apparent cover-up by companies involved and the ignoring by safety officials of tips and warnings from parents and doctors. Top Sanlu executives and government officials in the northern city of Shijiazhuang, where the company is based, have been forced to resign.

Melamine, which is high in nitrogen, is used to make plastics and fertilizers and experts say some amount of the chemical may be transferred from the environment during food processing.

But in China's case, suppliers trying to boost output are believed to have diluted their milk, adding melamine because its nitrogen content can fool tests aimed at verifying protein content.

Levels of melamine discovered in batches tested varied widely, from as much as 6,196 milligrams per kilogram to as little 1.3 milligrams per kilogram. Chinese health officials have said no harm comes from consuming less than 0.63 milligrams per kilogram.

India struggles with Hindu attacks on Christians

NEW DELHI (AP)—Nearly a year of attacks on Christians have put India's leaders on edge, and the latest flare-up in violence drew an angry denunciation from the country's Sikh prime minister as "acts of national shame."

"We are a secular state. We are a multireligious, multicultural nation," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told reporters during a stopover in France.

Hours later, Hindu mobs rampaged through villages in eastern India on Tuesday, attacking a Christian minister, damaging two churches and setting off Hindu-Christian clashes that killed at least one person.

It was just the latest in a string of attacks by Hindu hard-liners since December that have left dozens of people dead, dozens of churches destroyed and thousands of people homeless, many forced to live for days in thick forests until they could make their way to safety.

In a country where Christians are a tiny minority, the attacks reflect how large swaths of India—despite a highly educated urban elite and its increasing role as a global economic power—are riven by religious and cultural animosities and how those divides are woven into political power struggles.

2 Koreas end military talks amid tensions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The first military talks between North and South Korea in eight months ended in just an hour and a half Thursday, an official said, casting doubts over the prospect of any progress from the meeting.

Defense Ministry spokesman Won Tae-jae said talks inside the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two sides concluded in 90 minutes, but declined to say whether the sides made any headway. The spokesman said there would be an official announcement later in the day.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency cited an unidentified official as saying there was "little progress."

Thursday's meeting marked the resumption of goverment-level talks between the two Koreas since Seoul's conservative President Lee Myung-bak took office in February with a pledge to get tough on the communist neighbor. That angered Pyongyang and prompted it to suspend all reconciliation talks.

At the start of the meeting, the sides' chief delegates exchanged pleasantries but no further details were available.

The talks come at a time of heightened tensions over North Korea's move to restart its nuclear facilities and concern about communist leader Kim Jong Il's health. Kim, 66, has not been seen for weeks since reportedly suffering a stroke in mid-August.

North Korea's decision to stop disabling its Yongbyon nuclear reprocessing plant and to take steps to restore it—in violation of a 2007 pact—has alarmed regional powers. Chief U.S. nuclear negotiator Christopher Hill was in Pyongyang on Wednesday to try to salvage the international disarmament-for-aid deal.

On Thursday, South Korea's Dong-a Ilbo newspaper reported that the North has upgraded facilities at its Musudan-ri missile launch site on its northeast coast for a possible test-fire of a long-range missile.

The new long-range missile with a range of up to 6,200 miles is an upgraded version of Taepodong-2, which experts believe could reach parts of the United States, the newspaper said, citing unidentified government officials.

Pakistani diplomat charts fight against terrorism

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP)—Pakistan's top diplomat outlined a strategy for battling terrorism Wednesday that emphasizes going-it-alone militarily within Pakistani borders and talking with opponents if they lay down their arms.

Qureshi

The government's new "roadmap" also includes a media campaign to explain the importance to Pakistan's people of winning the war against extremists in tribal areas around neighboring Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said.

Pakistan's fight against the Taliban and al-Qaida militants comes years after Pakistani intelligence helped create the Taliban militia. Pakistan also was one of the few countries that gave diplomatic recognition to the Taliban's fundamentalist rule in Afghanistan.

"We are willing to take on the Taliban because we feel the Taliban are imposing a way of life on Pakistan that is not acceptable," Qureshi told 250 people during an hour-long speech at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. "We've agreed on a roadmap for the next few months."

He stressed that Pakistan will now "engage politically with the moderates, those who are willing to give up arms" and will "concentrate on the social, economic development" of the tribal belt.

"We will also use calibrated force. This is the new strategy that we have adopted," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar detains political ally of Aung San Suu Kyi

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's military authorities have detained a prominent former journalist and political ally of detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition party said Thursday. Police took 64-year-old Ohn Kyaing from his home Wednesday evening, said Nyan Win, the spokesman for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy. "The reason why he was detained was not known," Nyan Win said. Ohn Kyaing was released from prison in 2005 after serving 15 years of a 17-year prison sentence for "writing and distributing seditious pamphlets" and threatening state security. Ohn Kyaing joined the NLD after a long career in journalism and won a parliamentary seat in 1990—elections that were overwhelmingly won by Suu Kyi's party but which the military junta refused to recognize.

Singapore opposition loses icon as Jeyaretnam dies

SINGAPORE (AP)—With the death of Joshua B. Jeyaretnam, this thriving Southeast Asian city-state has lost its most iconic political maverick, dealing another blow to an opposition movement enfeebled by government lawsuits and voter apathy. Jeyaretnam, a once wealthy lawyer driven to bankruptcy under the weight of defamation lawsuits filed by Singapore's leaders, died Tuesday at age 82. In recent years, he had stood on street corners and outside subway stations peddling his books about politics because no retailer would stock them. A socialist at heart, he argued Singapore's free market policies enriches the elite while an underbelly of poor struggles to get by. Jeyaretnam found his place in history as Singapore's first opposition politician to be elected to Parliament, in 1981—22 years after the governing People's Action Party took power when Britain granted self rule.

S. Korean actress found dead in suspected suicide

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—One of South Korea's most popular actresses was found dead in a suspected suicide Thursday, police said. Choi Jin-sil, whose fame earned her the nickname "The Nation's Actress," was found in the bathroom of her Seoul home Thursday, Seocho Police Station said. The actress, 39, appeared to have hanged herself but an investigation was under way to determine the exact cause of death, police said. No suicide note has been found, officers said. Her death comes a month after the suicide of a fellow actor rumored to owe her money. Choi made her debut in the late 1980s and as a bright-eyed ingenue, quickly became one of South Korea's best-loved actresses.

World

US combat hospital saving more wounded Iraqis

BALAD, Iraq (AP)—The U.S. military's main combat hospital in Iraq has increasingly switched to helping Iraqis. As the numbers of wounded American soldiers have fallen, the hospital is now saving the lives of a remarkable 93 percent of Iraqis who come with devastating injuries.

It's another sign of the radical improvements in health care made at combat trauma care units in war time—especially because unlike U.S. soldiers, most Iraqi patients at the Air Force Theater Hospital don't wear body armor and helmets or drive in vehicles designed to withstand roadside bombs.

"There are people with injuries that are brought here, and I say this with confidence, if they went anywhere else in the world, they would not survive," said Col. Mark Mavity, the commander of the hospital.

On one recent day, 5-year-old Sajad Lafta lay in his bed crying for his father while his older half brother, Abdul Wahid, tried to comfort him by holding up a picture of a puppy that Sajad colored while recovering at the hospital.

The boy didn't know yet that Wahid, 25, came to visit him because his father was attending the funerals for two of his other young sons. They were killed by a car bomb that blew off Sajad's lower left leg and left tiny pieces of metal scattered over his body.

AP

U.S. Air Force medical staff are on hand to receive patients arriving by helicopter at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008.

"Thank God, we are positive he is going to live," said Wahid, who planned to bring the puppy picture home to their mother as proof that Sajad was alive.

Over the years, the hospital on Balad Air Base has become synonymous with combat trauma care. It is best known for saving countless U.S. soldiers with catastrophic battle injuries—more than 96 percent on average over the six-month period ending in August.

But even more astonishing: during that same time, about 93 percent of Iraqis left the hospital alive—up from an average of 89.7 percent during the previous six months.

Their injuries are devastating - shredded limbs, penetrating shrapnel fragments, massive internal bleeding and gaping head wounds.

The car bomb that wounded Sajad exploded during the evening of Sept. 12 in the town of Dujail, killing at least 32 people including his 7- and 6-year-old brothers as the three walked home after buying a few pieces of candy.

When Sajad's father heard the explosion, he raced over to his sons. Sajad was the only one still breathing. After the local hospital turned the boy away because his wounds were too severe, Sajad was taken on a U.S. helicopter to the military hospital on Balad Air Base, about 50 miles north of Baghdad.

Of the 11 Iraqis wounded in the blast who were taken to the hospital, 10 survived. The 11th was declared dead on arrival, doctors said.

As soon as the Iraqis arrived at the hospital, a team of doctors and nurses began operating—up to eight patients at a time. Nine hours later at 4 a.m., they called it a night.

Medvedev: No grounds for Cold War with US

STRELNA, Russia (AP)—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Wednesday that he sees no ideological grounds for a war with the United States—cold or hot—despite strained relations with Washington and the NATO alliance.

Medvedev

Russia's relations with the U.S. were already at a post-Cold War low when they were further damaged by Russia's war with U.S. ally Georgia in August. Russia has complained vehemently about what it says is a growing U.S. military presence near its borders.

But Medvedev said Wednesday that the Cold War was based on ideological differences between the Soviet Union and the NATO nations.

"We do not have such ideological differences around which a new cold or any other kind of war could start," Medvedev said after talks with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero outside St. Petersburg.

Medvedev said he would not "dramatize" troubled ties between Russia and NATO, and warned that NATO needs Russia more than Russia needs NATO.

He also said the outcome of the U.S. presidential election should not affect relations between Washington and Moscow.

Regardless of who wins the U.S. presidency, "Job No. 1 is to deal with the situation in the economy—that's what must be done."

The top U.S. diplomat for Latin America, Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Shannon, said Wednesday that, despite Russia's diplomatic and military overtures in the region, the U.S. has "no intention of reviving Cold War images or Cold War rhetoric."

"This is a conflict that the region has thankfully left behind," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Somalia: World can use force against the pirates

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somalia authorized foreign powers on Wednesday to use force against pirates holding a ship loaded with tanks for $20 million ransom, raising the stakes for bandits being watched by the U.S. Navy.

There was no indications, however, that the Americans or anyone else was preparing to take action.

Last week's hijacking of the Ukrainian cargo ship MV *Faina*—carrying 33 Soviet-made T-72 tanks, rifles and heavy weapons—was the highest profile act of piracy off this Horn of Africa nation this year. Several U.S. ships patrolled nearby and American helicopters buzzed overhead.

Moscow also has sent a warship to protect the few Russian hostages on board, but it was a nearly week away from the coast of central Somalia where the Faina has been anchored since Sept. 25. Most of the 20 crew members are Ukrainian or Latvian, and one Russian has died, apparently of illness.

Spurred by the latest hijacking, at least eight European Union countries offered Wednesday to form a new force to help protect shipping in the increasingly dangerous waters off Somalia, France's defense minister said—a move that eventually could give the Navy crucial support in the area.

WORLD BRIEFS

Spanish report ties Pakistan spy agency to Taliban

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Western intelligence agencies have long suspected that elements of Pakistan's spy service have aided the Taliban in Afghanistan, but a Spanish government report leaked to the media appears to be the first published assessment that spells out such cooperation. The August 2005 report says Pakistan's shadowy Inter-Services Intelligence agency helped the Taliban procure roadside bombs and may even have provided training and intelligence to the Taliban in camps set up on Pakistani soil. The Pakistani agency, known as the ISI, planned to have the Taliban use the explosives "to assassinate high-ranking officials" in Afghanistan, the report said. It also warned of possible advanced training camps in Pakistan "where the Taliban receive training, help and intelligence from the ISI and where they are also developing new kinds" of improvised explosive devices. The report said the Taliban had also been receiving help from al-Qaida.

Iraqi police: bombs kill 11 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi police say bombs at two Shiite mosques in Baghdad have killed 11 people and injured 30. Police officials say the bombs went off Thursday morning as worshippers left two separate mosques after early morning prayers celebrating the holiday of Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. A police official said a suicide car bomber killed seven and injured 21 in an attack that targeted an Iraqi army patrol protecting worshippers in the mainly Shiite neighborhood of Zafaraniyah. Two of the dead were soldiers. A separate police official said the other attack targeted worshippers leaving the Rasoul mosque in eastern Baghdad, killing four. The police officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

Ex-Liberia president, son face UN, US charges

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—In separate courts on different continents, former Liberian President Charles Taylor and his American son are standing trial on charges of committing atrocities in neighboring West African nations. The unprecedented father and son trials—one by a U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in The Hague and the other by a U.S. federal court in Miami—are revealing the savagery of the conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Miami, a witness displays the scars he says came from burning plastic poured onto his skin in Liberia. In The Hague, a mother recounts how rebels in Sierra Leone ordered her to carry a sack containing the heads of her two children who had just been hacked to death. The cases demonstrate that the days when war crimes suspects could flee and slip into obscurity to avoid prosecution may be drawing to a close.

EU monitors begin patrols in Georgian territory

KARALETI, Georgia (AP)—European Union monitors in white shirts and bright blue berets began patrolling a buffer zone Wednesday outside the breakaway region of South Ossetia that has been controlled by Russian troops and separatists since an August war in Georgia.

The deployment paves the way for a promised Russian pullback of its remaining troops from areas they occupied outside South Ossetia and another separatist region in Georgia.

Georgians in villages beyond Russian checkpoints welcomed the Western observers, who are to monitor the cease-fire and the withdrawal of Russian troops. Some frightened residents of villages damaged by arson and looting they blame on South Ossetians said the EU came too late.

Russian troops had said Tuesday that none of the EU observers would immediately be permitted in the buffer zone outside South Ossetia, raising concerns that Moscow was backtracking on its commitments.

But EU monitors—whose job is to observe the cease-fire and the Russian pullback—arrived on schedule. They were quickly allowed to pass through Russian checkpoints near two Georgian villages on the perimeter of the so-called security zone.

"The situation is very calm," said Ivan Kukushkin, a Russian officer in charge of the checkpoint near the Georgian village of Kvenatkotsa.

Russia still plans to keep around 7,600 troops in South Ossetia and the other breakaway region of Abkhazia, which the EU and U.S. consider to be violations of its cease-fire commitments. Moscow has refused to allow the EU monitors inside the regions themselves.

Off the Wall

Grandma, 92, is Michigan woman's matron of honor

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Many brides-to-be pick best friends to serve as their maids or matrons of honor. But Erica Schultz's best buddy isn't a high school friend or a college pal. It's her 92-year-old grandmother.

Angelene Schultz will stand beside her granddaughter when the 26-year-old marries Mark James on Oct. 18 in Bay City.

"She is my best friend," said Erica, who owns a Web design business with her fiance. "When my grandpa died, she bought a house down the street from our family. We both needed someone.

"I still go over to her house every day, to get her mail and prescriptions," she told The Saginaw News.

Schultz used to run down the street to her grandmother's house during high school, to share her "teen drama" and have girlfriends sleep over. She even lived there for a year during college.

When Schultz met James in 2001, they stopped by Angelene Schultz's house on the night of their first date.

And the woman known as Busha or Granny-Mae has been no bystander in the wedding planning process.

She helped choose the wedding gown and will wear her own red dress to the ceremony.

"I feel it is a big honor for me to be in the wedding party, and I'm happy to do it, even if I do raise some eyebrows," said the woman who has five children, 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

AP

Angelene Schultz, 92, left, poses with her granddaughter Erica S. Schultz, 27, on Sept. 24, 2008, in Saginaw Township, Mich.

SOLD! FOR $1.75.

AP

A home is seen Sept. 17, 2008, in Saginaw, Mich. With a winning bid of just $1.75, a Chicago woman has won an auction for the abandoned home in Saginaw. Joanne Smith, 30, recently was the top bidder for the home during an auction on eBay, The Saginaw News reported, in September 2008. Her bid was one of eight for the home. She must pay about $850 in back taxes and yard cleanup costs. "I am going to try and sell it," she told the newspaper. "I don't have any plans to move to Saginaw." Smith said she hasn't seen the property or visited Saginaw, which has been hard-hit by economic troubles in recent years. There's a notice on the door of the home saying a foreclosure hearing is pending, the newspaper said.

Las Vegas rolling the dice on its new mob museum

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Las Vegas hopes its newest museum will be a hit.

The city is opening The (redacted) Museum: The Las Vegas Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, which will showcase southern Nevada's colorful and storied past in organized crime.

The City Council unveiled the name Tuesday, along with logos resembling court documents with material blacked out. The first redaction obscures the word "mob."

"I don't think anybody is able to do tongue-in-cheek the way Las Vegas can do it," said Mayor Oscar Goodman, a former criminal defense lawyer who represented organized crime figures before representing residents in City Hall.

The museum is expected to open in spring 2010 in downtown Las Vegas at the site of the former federal courthouse where Goodman tried his first case.

As city officials unveiled the plans, council members tossed around T-shirts that said: "There is no such thing as a mob museum nor have I ever been there."

"Does this mean the mayor's going to be cleaning out his garage?" joked Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian.

Goodman joked of his possible contributions to the exhibits: "They've been in my backyard trying to dig up some of the old relics, but so far I've fended them off. We'll have a lot of Oscar-abilia in there."

Plans for the museum are supported by the FBI, which has pledged to locate organized crime artifacts in Washington and lend them for displays. The former head of the Las Vegas FBI office, Ellen Knowlton, is chairwoman of the museum's board.

Officials say the museum won't glorify organized crime, but instead will give a candid look at its influence on Las Vegas, how law enforcers worked to extract illegal influences from gambling, how mob operations in cities around the country were connected and famous hearings on organized crime.

The city believes the museum could draw as many as 800,000 visitors each year and is part of an attempt to revitalize downtown Las Vegas.

The mob theme was picked after a poll of 300 tourists showed more than 70 percent ranking the idea among its top three concepts. Other options included a behind-the-scenes look at gambling, a museum on magic or a museum dedicated to Las Vegas icons such as Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley.

Rubbers swiped from Mexico condom-mobile

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Missing in Mexico: 5,000 condoms, sound equipment and a motor used to inflate a giant prophylactic, all stolen from a "condom-mobile" used to promote HIV/AIDS awareness.

The coordinator of an HIV/AIDS awareness tour, Polo Gomez, said the truck was taken Sunday from its parking spot in front of a friend's house in Mexico City.

It was recovered Wednesday in a shopping mall parking lot in a northern suburb - minus the condoms and the equipment. Gomez said the thieves left some 800 HIV tests and a 23-foot inflatable prophylactic, which were also in the vehicle.

The truck wasn't hard to locate. It features painted images of a peeled banana, the exposed part shaped like a condom, and a shirtless man saying: "I protect myself. Do you?"

After the theft received widespread media coverage, residents phoned police with the vehicle's whereabouts, Gomez said.

The Condomovil program has toured Mexico since 1998 promoting safe sex practices while distributing 1.2 million condoms to more than 700,000 people, Gomez said. The inflatable condom was used to draw attention from passers-by.

The group bought the truck with a grant from Mexico's federal Health Department. The department also donated the 5,000 condoms that were stolen.

The United Nations AIDS program says there are some 200,000 people living with HIV in Mexico.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Pistol-packing Pa. soccer mom loses gun permit

LEBANON, Pa. (AP)—Officials in Pennsylvania have revoked a woman's concealed-weapons permit because other parents complained that she was carrying her loaded handgun at her daughter's soccer games. Meleanie Hain said she's fighting the revocation by the Lebanon County sheriff. Hain lost the permit and got a warning from local soccer officials after a game on Sept. 11. Sheriff Michael DeLeo says openly carrying a weapon to a youth soccer match shows a lack of judgment. Hain tells the Lebanon Daily News she's always openly carried a firearm without any problems in the past. And her lawyer - Robert Magee - says that while Pennsylvania requires a permit for a concealed firearm, it doesn't require a license to carry one openly except in Philadelphia.

Man accused of stealing empty beer truck

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—Police arrested a 21-year-old man for allegedly stealing a beer truck, then dumping the vehicle after determining it contained no cargo. Police arrested the man on Monday on suspicion of felony theft of an automobile. Bail was set at $5,000 cash or bond on Tuesday. Authorities say a deputy discovered the beer truck stuck in the mud along the Wild Rice River. Sgt. Jeff Skuza said, "He'd stolen it thinking he'd get some beer, and it was completely empty." Police identified the suspect through a tip from his friend.

Man cited for allegedly buying beer for young sons

FOND DU LAC, Wis. (AP)—A father who bought a beer for his 4-year-old son at the Fond du Lac County Fair and shared it with the boy's 2-year-old sibling was cited after becoming belligerent when he was approached by police. A woman working at a beer tent last July told an officer she thought the man was joking when he asked for two beers - one for him and another for his 4-year-old son. When he was questioned by an officer, he told him it's legal for underage children to drink in Wisconsin, as long as they're with their parents. The officer countered that the boys weren't old enough to know what they were drinking. A police report said the man began yelling and swearing and was kicked off the fairgrounds.

Ohio company offers 'Sarah-Cuda' hunting bow

XENIA, Ohio (AP)—A western Ohio manufacturer is offering a custom-designed hunting bow inspired by Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. Lakota Industries Inc. announced its "Sarah-Cuda" bow Wednesday in honor of the Alaska governor's "lifelong passion for the sport of hunting." The pink camouflage bow weighs 3.4 pounds and is designed to accommodate female hunters and archers. It retails for $590. Lakota chief executive Dick Williamson said the bow also pays tribute to women who "bear the responsibility of family and work while strengthening the moral fiber of society."

Science & Technology

How can I make my computer run faster, for free?

By BRIAN BERGSTEIN
AP TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Q. My computer has gotten slower and slower at doing basic things like booting up and running multiple programs at once. How do I improve its performance without spending any money?

A: You're wise to try to fix this problem yourself, for free. There are a few things you can do to make your computer feel more like the brilliant multitasking machine you want it to be and less like the wheezer it's turned into.

Let's start by setting aside one thing that a lot of people try but we won't recommend here. It's called overclocking, and it involves tweaking your PC's hardware settings to make the central processor or system memory run faster than their manufacturers officially intended. It can get tricky.

Besides, unless you're running nuclear simulations or are a huge video game player, your standard home PC probably should be fast enough for what you need. The problem isn't in the hardware. It's in all the software that's gotten larded onto it.

So here are some simple things to do to gain more control.

Reduce the programs that automatically launch at startup.

Windows offers a few ways to do this; one easy way is to click icons for programs on the taskbar, which most people have on the bottom of the screen. If you select the icons for instant-messaging programs like AOL's AIM service, look for a chance to adjust "options" or "settings." Find the box that tells the program to automatically begin running at startup, and unclick it. And next time you download a new piece of software, check the default installation choices carefully, and make sure you really want something to begin running at startup.

Cut down on add-ons.

You don't have to run every aspect of a useful program. For example, Google Desktop is great at indexing and finding the contents of your computer, but it also likes to display a sidebar full of "applets" with news headlines or stock quotes. If you use this and the computer goes into slo-mo, see what happens if you turn off the sidebar. Click on the swirly Google Desktop icon and instead of "sidebar," "deskbar" or "floating deskbar" select "none."

Change your Web browser or the way you use it.

Browsers can get balky if you have too many tabs or windows open at once, especially if some of the sites you're visiting have interactive content like video or dynamically updating sports scores. Tests by The Associated Press have shown that people can do better if they switch away from Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer 7. The open-source Firefox browser is a good alternative, as is Google Chrome and the next version of Internet Explorer, IE 8, although technically the latter two are still in "beta" test mode and not all sites work well with them yet. If you use Firefox, be sure to activate a program that blocks Flash video from running on Web sites you have open but are not currently viewing. To get this performance enhancement, go to addons.mozilla.org and search for "Flashblock."

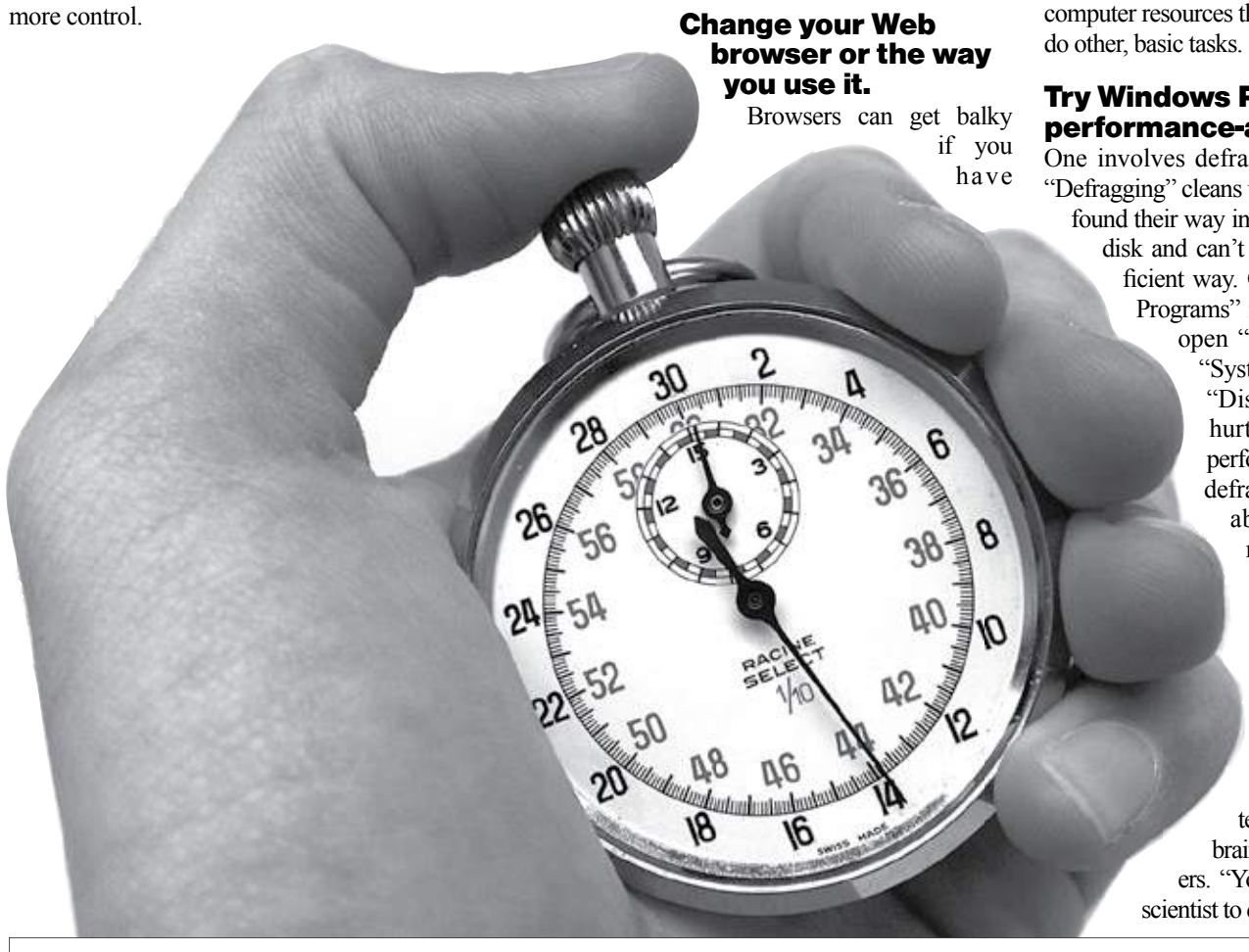
Post your photos or videos at moments when you can leave the computer and do something else.

Internet access providers generally let you download data much faster than you can upload it. Attaching your photo to an e-mail or sending it to an image-sharing Web site eats up a lot of time and computer resources that get in the way of trying to do other, basic tasks.

Try Windows PCs' built-in performance-assistance tools.

One involves defragmenting your hard drive. "Defragging" cleans up stray bits of data that have found their way into various places on the hard disk and can't be accessed in the most efficient way. Go into "Programs" or "All Programs" in the Start menu, then click open "Accessories," followed by "System Tools," and then select "Disk Defragmenter." It can't hurt, though we've found the performance improvements from defragging to be barely noticeable. You might get better results from another option in the same "System Tools" menu: "Disk Cleanup." This deletes temporary Internet files and other junk you don't really need.

"A PC does require some maintenance," says Bill Calder, a spokesman for Intel Corp., whose chips are the brains in most personal computers. "You don't need to be a rocket scientist to do it."



CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY TIPS

By ROB PEGORARO
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If you run Microsoft's most widely-used e-mail programs—Outlook, Outlook Express or OE's Windows Vista successor, Windows Mail—you can find yourself waiting to get an urgent message. That's because all three applications, when configured for the most common type of e-mail system, come set to look for new mail only every 30 minutes. To speed that up, you'll need to adjust a setting in each program. In Outlook, go to the Tools menu and select "Options..."; in the Options window, click the "Mail Setup" tab, then the "Send/Receive..." button underneath it; in the send/receive window, click the drop-down menu next to "Schedule an automatic send/receive every" and pick 10 minutes (or whatever number suits you best). In Outlook Express and Windows Mail, go to the Tools menu and click "Options..."; in the Options window, choose a different interval from the drop-down menu next to "Check for new messages every."

■ ■ ■

A new wireless router may come with a CD full of software for you to install, but you're often better off skipping it. Windows XP and Vista are perfectly capable of logging onto a wireless network on their own, and most WiFi routers' settings can be inspected and changed just by typing a special address (it's often 192.168.1.1) into your Web browser. Worse yet, installing some aftermarket wireless-networking utility may gum up Windows' own networking systems; if nothing else, it's likely to be harder to set up and use than the tools built into Windows. So, spare yourself time now and trouble later by declining these optional software installations. There is, however, one exception to that rule: Apple's AirPort routers, which come set up to be managed only by Apple's AirPort Utility program.

■ ■ ■

Many pages have addresses too long for a single line of text; by the time these multiple-line links (often called "URLs," short for "universal resource locators") land in a friend's inbox, they can get split into separate strings of text that go nowhere when clicked. To avoid that, use a free site—try TinyURL.com or bit.ly—that will generate a shortcut to an overly long address. Both of those sites include "bookmarklet" snippets that you can add to your browser's bookmarks list; when you select that bookmark, it will convert the current page's address to a shortcut link, ready for you to paste into an e-mail, instant message or social-network status update.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: Because this has been in the news lately: How can I keep my Web mail password secure from hackers trying to guess it?

A: Last week, Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin suffered a cruel little invasion of privacy: Somebody logged into the Alaska governor's Yahoo account and browsed through her mail. This person, still unknown, apparently pulled this off by guessing the answer to the security question on Yahoo's password-reset page: "Where did you meet your spouse?"

Most of us aren't public figures whose lives are chronicled in books, newspaper articles and Wikipedia, but the same issue applies. If somebody else can answer your security question — a common back door offered for users who forget their login and can't get it e-mailed to a secondary e-mail address — he doesn't need to guess your password or steal it with a phishing scam or a keystroke-logging virus.

You can minimize that risk by choosing a question with an answer that's only in your head, not on the Web. (Remember, "the Web" includes whatever's on your profile at Facebook, MySpace or another social-networking site, even if that information isn't shown to strangers.)

Here's how to change an existing security question to something less guessable at the three major Web mail services:

■ At Yahoo, log in and click the "My Account" link above your inbox. Then click the "Help" link. The Help page's "Secret Question" link leads to instructions on how to change this.

■ In Google's Gmail, log in and click the "Settings" link. On that page, click the Accounts tab, then the "Google Account settings" link.

■ In Microsoft's Hotmail, log in, click your e-mail address at the top right of the screen, and select "View your account" from its drop-down menu.

■ ■ ■

Q. How can I stop the touchpad on my laptop from treating random taps as mouse clicks?

A. Most Windows laptops seem to come with this "tap-to-click" feature enabled on their touchpads. If you find this leads you to click when you don't want to, you can turn it off — after taking a few detours through Windows' interface.

First, open the Mouse Properties window. In Windows XP, go to the Start menu, select Control Panel, click "Printers and Other Hardware" and then "Mouse"; in Vista, hit the Start menu, select Control Panel, and click "Mouse" under its "Hardware and Sound" heading.

In that properties window, look for a tab (begin ital) not (end ital) labeled "Buttons," "Pointers," "Pointer Options," "Wheel" or "Hardware," then click on it to see your laptop's specific touchpad settings. On a Dell laptop, for instance, a "Dell Touchpad" tab led to a screen with a "Touchpad Settings" link, which in turn revealed a "Tap to Click" checkbox that I could click to disable. On an HP machine, a "Device Settings" tab's "Settings ... " button opened a window in which I could select a "Tapping" heading at the left, then click to clear its "Enable Tapping" checkbox.

Whether you like or hate tap-to-click, one thing's for sure: The people behind these settings screens desperately need to simplify them.

■ ■ ■

Q. My iMac G5 did not come with a wireless card. Should I get Apple's AirPort card? A friend suggests a third-party USB adapter instead.

A. Yes, get an AirPort card. It will cost more, but it won't tie up one of your Mac's too-few USB ports.

Owners of such older Macs as the first line of G4 iMacs, however, don't have this option. Apple stopped making AirPort cards compatible with them years ago, leaving those buyers no choice but to purchase external WiFi adapters.

Life & Style

Francine Prose on the unteachable art of writing

By BOB THOMPSON
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Francine Prose has thought a lot about writing in the 35 years she's been trying to make a living at it. And one of the things she thinks is: It can't be taught.

"Not by me!" the author says cheerfully. Black haired, laughing, in jeans and a flowered shirt, she's talking tradecraft over a Thai lunch near Dupont Circle, skipping words at the end of sentences because she's in a hurry to get to the next one.

Never mind that Prose supplemented her income by teaching creative writing for two decades. And never mind that she achieved unlikely bestsellerdom a couple of years back with a text called "Reading Like a Writer: A Guide for People Who Love Books and for Those Who Want to Write Them."

Can't. Be. Taught.

If you're a reader of book reviews, you've likely seen the Prose name. Her brother suggests she respond to the inevitable jokes with, "It could be Verse."

She has published 15 works of adult fiction, most recently "Goldengrove," out this month to generally strong reviews. (Janet Maslin of the New York Times called it "beautifully wrought.") Of her earlier novels, you're most likely to have heard of "Blue Angel," a tragicomic sendup of academia in which she conjures the Creative Writing Class From Hell. She has also written nonfiction, such as a biography of the painter Caravaggio, along with young adult fiction, children's books and countless pieces for newspapers and magazines.

She's down from New York for a reading. And while it may be true that writing can't be taught—let's withhold judgment on that a bit, shall we?—an aspiring writer could certainly learn a few things from a conversation with Prose.

"Goldengrove" is something new for her, she says. Her other fiction, like "Blue Angel," tends to have a comic edge. "Goldengrove" has its funny moments, but "it's much more melancholy, it's much more elegiac and it's much more raw, really. One family, one tragedy, one girl."

The girl is 13-year-old Nico, who lives with her parents and older sister on the shore of Mirror Lake. The tragedy occurs early, and given reviews and the book's own flap copy, there's little chance you won't know what's happened before you plunge in. In any case, grief haunts the remainder of the story, which is told from Nico's point of view.

THE WASHINGTON POST

"Reading can for sure be taught," says writer Francine Prose, shown here in D.C. And in her view, close reading, combined with constant writing, is the only way a writer really learns.

This brings us to what we might call Prose's First Nugget of Advice for Fiction Writers: *You can write about what's really happened to you without being constrained by the facts.*

What happened to Prose, three years ago, was that her mother died. "I was a wreck," she says. "It wasn't as if I was taking notes on my situation, but I thought, 'This is a very particular state of mind' "—shocking, transforming, coloring everything—"and I wanted to write about it."

Eventually, folding in another family's story she'd heard about, she realized that her novel would be narrated by a young girl. That presented interesting problems but didn't change the central concept. "The mystery of absence is the mystery of absence, no matter how old you are," she says. "How can someone have been there and not be there anymore?"

Still, Prose is 61. It's clear that the grieving narrator isn't merely a stand-in for her. Nor is Nico's family much like hers: The writer has grown sons, not daughters; her husband, painter Howard Michels, "is certainly not—they're definitely not us. Which is the great joy of fiction."

Ah, but here comes another advice nugget: *Go ahead, steal from life when you need to.*

Take the exquisite, half-speed rendition of "My Funny Valentine" that Nico's sister sings in a high school show. That comes from a half-speed rendition of "Do Nothing Till You Hear From Me" with which Prose's saxophone-playing younger son once wowed the judges at a music competition. Or take the fictional mother's opinion of her daughter's chosen song: " 'My Funny Valentine'? Some patronizing jerk telling the poor ugly duckling he doesn't care if her mouth's a little weak?"

That's pure Prose. "I hate 'My Funny Valentine,' " she says now. "I just think that's the most grotesque—"

Speaking of Nico's parents: They didn't have names until Prose was on her fourth or fifth draft. "Their characters evolved," she says. "It's sort of like painting, I guess. You put a brush stroke in, you put a brush stroke in, and eventually you have this thing emerging."

The nugget in this would be: *You don't need to know much when you begin.*

Prose's books end up with carefully worked out plots, but they don't start that way. She never makes outlines. "I don't know how to do it," she says. She had no idea how Nico and her family would deal with their grief, just that they would get through it somehow. She didn't know a boyfriend was going to be involved, but once he showed up, she started channeling elements of Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo." Well into "Goldengrove," she added an important character because "I needed another adult in the book."

But forget plotting. *It's all about the sentences.* Though it might be best not to tell your publisher that.

"I would really like, before this whole thing is over, for at least one review to talk about the sentences in my novel," Prose says. Usually what you get is plot summary, but in a way, the plot of "Goldengrove" was "a vehicle for me to hang those sentences on."

Take the book's concluding sentence. It clusters three adjectives and an adverb, completely violating the common notion—with which Prose generally agrees—that two adjectives accompanying a noun is at least one too many.

"I must have rewritten that sentence hundreds of times," she says. "I'm going: OK, if I'm going to have three adjectives and an adverb, they'd better be the right ones." Out they would come. Back in they would go. "Because I was writing for rhythm as well as for everything else, and the rhythm kept just—you know."

Another point about that last sentence: Prose borrowed it from poetry.

"Not the words themselves but the notion of the sentence is stolen from a Philip Larkin poem," she explains. Larkin's "Aubade" evokes a long night, dominated by thoughts of death, before morning and the "rented world" at last return.

Those three adjectives and the adverb serve as a reminder of how rules can sometimes get in a writer's way. This is one problem with creative writing classes, Prose believes—students spend too much time learning what not to do—but it's far from the only problem.

You might sum up the voice of experience here as: *Don't even begin to think you can learn to write by taking an undergraduate writing workshop.*

Prose never took one herself. She got her start by dropping out of a Harvard PhD program in medieval literature and publishing a first novel in 1973. But she taught writing on and off for 20 years, at places such as the University of Arizona, the University of Utah and Sarah Lawrence College, and she projected some of her feelings onto poor, doomed Swenson, the protagonist of "Blue Angel." His writing class is "a kind of dream/nightmare," she says, in which she mashed together the most difficult personalities she ever had to teach. A sample passage:

"Just mentioning Chekhov made Swenson feel less alone, as if he were being watched over by a saint who wouldn't judge him for the criminal fraud of pretending that these kids could be taught what Swenson's pretending to teach them. Chekhov would see into his heart and know that he sincerely wished he could give his students what they want: talent, fame, money, a job."

Prose doesn't teach those classes anymore. Raise the subject and she mimes shooting herself in the head.

"The kids who are going to be writers are going to be writers anyway. The kids who aren't, aren't," she says. "So why am I having everybody read their stories?" She still teaches, mainly at Bard College, but only literature classes, which she calls "reading classes" to distinguish her subject—close reading to observe how writers achieve their effects—from esoteric literary theory.

"Reading can for sure be taught," she says. And in her view, close reading, combined with constant writing, is the only way a writer really learns.

Looking back, Prose is happy she didn't finish that PhD. "I'm very glad to have been spared a life in academia. You know, *thank* you." For the past year and a half, she's been president of the American chapter of PEN, the international writers' association that defends free expression, which "gets me out" and makes her feel she's "doing something in the world."

Getting out. It's a chronic problem. One last bit of advice, then, for those who long for the joys of the writing life:

"You have to have a very particular kind of temperament," Prose says. "Oh, I think I'll spend the next three years completely by myself, working 14 hours a day, with no idea of whether it's any good or not, taking out commas, putting back commas ..."

Pay attention, all you would-be Francine Proses. That comma stuff? It's an obsession.

It's not a skill that can be taught.

NY photogs deny wrongdoing over nude Monroe pics

AP

In this photo provided by Weingrad & Weingrad LLP, a copy of a transparency showing actress Marilyn Monroe made is Los Angeles in July, 1962 is shown.

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer for two photography professionals says seven nude and seminude Marilyn Monroe photos that are the subject of a lawsuit were found in curbside garbage nearly 35 years ago.

The pictures were part of a series shot by Bert Stern at the Bel Air Hotel in Los Angeles in 1962 while he was on assignment for Vogue magazine. The series is known as "The Last Sitting" and was shot six weeks before Monroe was found dead from an overdose of drugs.

The photos show Monroe in various gently erotic poses behind a piece of transparent white gauzy fabric. The shots were recreated by Stern in a February 2008 photo session with actress Lindsay Lohan.

The 78-year-old Stern claims in a lawsuit filed last week that some of the Monroe film was stolen after it was loaned to now-defunct Eros magazine in the summer of 1962.

Attorney Jamie Brickell said Wednesday that his clients, photo retoucher Michael Weiss and photo printer Don Penny, did nothing wrong. He said their acquaintance Bob Bryan found the film in a pile of garbage in Manhattan in 1973 or '74.

Brickell said Penny was 7 and Weiss and Bryan were teenagers when Stern shot the Monroe photos and none of them had any connection with Eros, whose explicit content dealt with sexual history, art, politics and literature.

Brickell said that during a conversation about the film transparencies, Penny mentioned that he knew Stern's brother and offered to arrange an introduction.

The lawyer denied his clients asked Stern for money as he claims. He says they only asked for print copies from the film that Bryan found and offered to pay all costs if they were allowed to process the film themselves.

Brickell said Stern told them he would control processing and they agreed that under this arrangement Stern would pay processing costs. He said his clients have voicemail and e-mail messages recording the terms of their agreement.

Stern's lawyer, Stephen Weingrad, said he would respond to Brickell later.

Weingrad said his client learned the photos were being held by Weiss and Penny when they contacted him a few months ago and offered "to do a deal."

The men gave Stern two of the photos so he could authenticate them, but they said he would have to pay for the others, Weingrad said.

The lawyer said that after negotiations broke down because the men were too "greedy," Stern requested the return of the other pictures. They refused, so he sued, Weingrad said.

Brickell said that Weiss and Penny "fulfilled every agreement and condition reached at every step of the negotiations" and that money was never an issue.

Stern's lawsuit accuses Weiss and Penny of unlawful possession of his property and unjust enrichment. Stern says he wants at least $700,000 for the value of the photographs and $1 million in punitive damages and legal fees.

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

†MANUEL TERLAJE CASTRO

"Manning"

invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Death Anniversary of our beloved's passing into eternal life.

Mass will be celebrated daily at San Vicente Church beginning Sunday, September 28 through Monday, October 6 at 6:00 p.m.

On the last day, Monday, October 6, 2008, we invite all our relatives and friends to join us for dinner following the 6:00 p.m. Mass at the residence of Helen Castro and Jesus H. Sablan in Apu Drive, Chalan Kiya.

Your presence and prayers during the Daily Masses are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

The Family

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times

Nonfiction

1. ***Hot, Flat, and Crowded***, by Thomas L. Friedman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: $27.95) Positing solutions to overpopulation and the global warming crisis.
2. ***The War Within***, by Bob Woodward (Simon & Schuster: $32) In his fourth book about the Bush presidency, Woodward reveals the dangers of unwarranted secrecy during the Iraq war.
3. ***The Last Lecture,*** by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.
4. ***Breakthrough,*** by Suzanne Somers (Crown: $25.95) Advice on the newest treatments for longevity and healthy living, by the anti-aging advocate.
5. ***Goodnight Bush,*** by Erich Origen and Gan Golan (Little, Brown: $14.99) A political parody of the children's classic Goodnight Moon.
6. ***When You Are Engulfed in Flames,*** by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: $25.99) Musings on life and smoking, North Carolina and New York.
7. ***The Secret,*** by Rhonda Byrne, (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets, distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.
8. ***The Limits of Power,*** by Andrew Bacevich (Metropolitan: $24) A retired army colonel believes a return to traditional principles will solve America's economic, military and political troubles.
9. ***sTORI Telling,*** by Tori Spelling (Simon Spotlight Entertainment: $24.95) The old-school 90210 star tells all.
10. ***Mother on Fire,*** by Sandra Tsing Loh (Crown: $23) A humorist's look at the state of schools, society and modern parenting in dysfunctional L.A.

Fiction

1. ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, life and death.
2. ***American Wife,*** by Curtis Sittenfeld (Random House: $26) A fictional portrait of an American first lady that is loosely based on Laura Bush.
3. ***Anathem,*** by Neal Stephenson (William Morrow: $29.95) A world in crisis finally brings together a scholarly math community with a corrupted saecular society.
4. ***Breaking Dawn,*** by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $22.99) The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality as a vampire.
5. ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society***, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: $22) A writer corresponds with islanders in the aftermath of German occupation during World War II.
6. ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle***, by David Wroblewski (Ecco: $25.95) A mute dog breeder is banished by his uncle in this twist on Hamlet.
7. ***The Little Book***, by Selden Edwards (Dutton: $25.95) An exiled banking heir travels in time from 1980s San Francisco to late 18th-century Vienna.
8. ***The Book of Lies***, by Brad Meltzer (Grand Central: $25.99) The connection between the creation of Superman and the biblical story of Cain and Abel.
9. ***Home***, by Marilynne Robinson (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: $25) A brother and sister return home and attempt to bond while taking care of their sick father.
10. ***Fine Just the Way It Is***, by Annie Proulx (Scribner: $25) Aging cowboys and Iraq war veterans struggle through life in the American West.

First Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of
Our Dearly Beloved

†Lorpina Profeta Bundoc

we invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate her first death anniversary.

Daily Mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m., starting Friday, Oct. 03 thru Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, in San Vicente Church.

On the final day, Saturday, October 11, 2008, the anniversary Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church. Appreciation dinner immediately follows at the San Vicente Church Social Hall.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence will be forever appreciated.

Tomas S.P. Bundoc and Family

CBS' Katie Couric is making news—with her work

AP

In this photo originally provided by CBS News on Sept, 24, 2008, CBS News anchor Katie Couric interviews Republican Presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—After two years of stories about bad ratings and an uncertain future, Katie Couric is back to making news the old-fashioned way—with her work.

The "CBS Evening News" anchor is on an impressive run of interviews, including a "vice presidential questions" segment in which she will ask Sarah Palin and Joe Biden about abortion and the separation between church and state on the show Wednesday and Thursday.

This comes after getting John McCain to come by her studio last week on the day he announced the suspension of his campaign and—much to David Letterman's chagrin—use that venue to explain his decision to the American people.

Her program won an Edward R. Murrow award as the best newscast from the Radio and Television News Directors Association over the summer and is gelling after its shaky start, although it's still a distant third behind ABC and NBC in the ratings.

"I've never really lost confidence in my abilities, which I guess is pretty miraculous," Couric said Tuesday. "I didn't really have a lot of platforms to do what I excel at, which is talk to people and do interviews."

ABC's Charles Gibson beat her to the Palin interview, but Couric was the first to speak to McCain and Palin together. Her talks with Palin, done in five separate sessions including backstage at a campaign rally, have aired this week on the "CBS Evening News."

Couric interviewed congressional leaders Monday on the failure of the Wall Street bailout plan. Her talk with McCain last week was set up without knowing the GOP presidential candidate had backed out of a Letterman appearance the same night; Couric had no comment on Letterman's relentless attacks on McCain since then.

The broadcast has gotten its most attention with its semi-regular "presidential questions" segment, which started during the primaries. Each candidate is asked the same question, then given time to answer it. The segments run seven or eight minutes, considered an eternity in a 30-minute evening newscast, and aren't chopped into soundbites.

The idea is to get into the candidates' heart and head, and not ask something that would put them on automatic pilot, said Rick Kaplan, the program's executive producer.

McCain and Barack Obama were asked to describe a personal flaw that they thought might hinder their ability to be president. They've been asked to describe a situation where they thought it was appropriate to lie to the American public, and about their favorite books and movies.

Couric asked each of them: "Why do you think there has not been another terrorist attack on American soil since 9/11 and, as president, what would you do to prevent another one?"

"You're going to give them a lot of airtime, so you want to make sure your questions are not insipid or ridiculous," Kaplan said.

During the primaries, several candidates—including John Edwards—were asked: "Harry Truman said a man not honorable in his marital relations is not usually honorable in any other. Some voters don't feel comfortable supporting a candidate who has not been faithful to his or her spouse. Can you understand their position?"

Couric's favorite is when she asked candidates, "What are you most afraid of losing?"

Palin and Biden were asked to explain why Roe vs. Wade was a good or bad Supreme Court decision. They were asked to describe a Supreme Court decision that they disagreed with.

They'll also be asked about Thomas Jefferson's writings on the separation between church and state.

Kaplan said he felt Couric handled the Palin interview with "polite persistence." The veteran newsman, who has produced Peter Jennings and Ted Koppel among others, said he's never worked with a better interviewer than Couric.

VP debate moderator's impartiality questioned

NEW YORK (AP)—PBS journalist Gwen Ifill, moderator of the upcoming vice presidential debate, dismissed conservative questions about her impartiality because she is writing a book that includes material on Barack Obama.

Ifill said Wednesday that she hasn't even written her chapter on Obama for the book "The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama," which is to be published by Doubleday on Jan. 20, 2009, the day a new president is inaugurated.

AP

In this image released by The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer, PBS correspondent Gwen Ifill is shown at the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis on Aug. 27, 2008.

"I've got a pretty long track record covering politics and news, so I'm not particularly worried that one-day blog chatter is going to destroy my reputation," Ifill said. "The proof is in the pudding. They can watch the debate tomorrow night and make their own decisions about whether or not I've done my job."

The day before the Joe Biden-Sarah Palin debate, columnist Michelle Malkin wrote in the New York Post about Ifill's book, saying "she's so far in the tank for the Democratic presidential candidate, her oxygen delivery line is running out."

In its online description of the book, Doubleday says that Ifill "surveys the American political landscape, shedding new light on the impact of Barack Obama's stunning presidential campaign and introducing the emerging young African American politicians forging a bold new path to political power."

The McCain campaign found out about Ifill's book in the last day or so, a spokesman said.

Ifill said Obama's story, which she has yet to write, is only a small part of the book, which discusses how politics in the black community have changed since the civil rights era. Among those subjects is Colin Powell, secretary of state in the Bush administration.

The host of PBS' "Washington Week" and senior correspondent on "The NewsHour" said she did not tell the Commission on Presidential Debates about the book. The commission had no immediate comment when contacted by The Associated Press. A spokeswoman for John McCain's campaign did not immediately return phone and e-mail messages.

Ifill's resume includes jobs at The New York Times, the Washington Post and NBC News. She moderated the 2004 vice presidential debate between Dick Cheney and John Edwards.

She said it was the publisher, not herself, who set the Inauguration Day release date. It will be released then whether Obama wins or loses.

Although Malkin raised the topic of Ifill's impartiality the day before the debate, the PBS journalist said that Time magazine noted she was writing a book in August, and that it has been available for pre-sale on Amazon.com. The book also is mentioned in a Sept. 4 interview she gave the Washington Post.

Ifill questions why people assume that her book will be favorable toward Obama.

"Do you think they made the same assumptions about Lou Cannon (who is white) when he wrote his book about Reagan?" said Ifill, who is black. Asked if there were racial motives at play, she said, "I don't know what it is. I find it curious."

AP

In this Saturday, Aug. 14, 2004 file photo, Trey Anastasio, left center, Mike Gordon, right, and Jon Fishman play their first set at the Phish Festival in Coventry, Vt.

No Phish tale: Jamband announces 3 shows, more

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Those reunion rumors weren't just cut bait: Four years after disbanding, the time seems right to Phish.

The Vermont-bred foursome on Wednesday announced three concert dates next March in Hampton, Va., a longtime favorite venue for the band and its fiercely loyal fans. Other 2009 dates will be announced later, according to a notice posted on the band's Web site.

Ambrosia Healy, a spokeswoman for the band, confirmed in a news release the dates of March 6, March 7 and March 8, 2009, at the Hampton Coliseum. She said band members weren't available for interviews Wednesday.

After a more than 20-year run that saw its audience build from a few people in Burlington, Vt., bars to a Grateful Dead-like cult following, Phish called it quits in 2004. Though their fans continued to pack stadiums around the country that year, it was clear that fatigue and personal problems began to subtly erode the band's intricate and demanding live sound.

But in recent months, its members began to muse about a renewed appetite for the music, causing their well-connected fans to buzz that the reunion was all but a done deal.

"Sometimes you hear bands say `We're breaking up' and a year or two later, they come back," said Jammy Awards co-founder Peter Shapiro, who brought the foursome together last May at the awards ceremony in New York. They did not perform at the appearance.

"By the time they come back, it'll be almost five years," he continued. "That's a fair amount of time for them to do what they needed to do, on an individual level. And probably it was enough time to realize they needed to get back together as a group. They got the itch."

In August 2004, the band said an emotional goodbye with a two-day festival at Newport State Airport in Coventry, Vt. But even that performance ended on a sloppy note: A freakish rainstorm caused many fans to be turned away and trapped the cars of many others in a morass of mud. Those who got in watched the band break down in tears in the middle of some songs and muddle haplessly through others.

5 Hollywood studios agree to digital rollout

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Five Hollywood studios have agreed to help pay for a $1 billion-plus rollout of digital technology on about 20,000 movie screens in North America, a precursor to showing movies in 3-D.

Digital Cinema Implementation Partners, a consortium of major theater chains, announced the deal Wednesday. The rollout in the U.S. and Canada, covering about half of all screens, is planned to start early next year.

To help offset the costs - about $70,000 per screen - the studios plan to pay the consortium slightly under $1,000 per movie per screen, roughly the same amount it costs them to print and ship a celluloid film copy.

Adding digital equipment is the critical first step in the technological upgrade to being able to show 3-D movies.

More than 20 3-D movies are set to hit theaters through 2010, but only 873 locations in the U.S. and Canada, with 1,264 3-D screens, are available now, according to The Walt Disney Co., a signatory to the digital rollout.

Disney plans to release five 3-D movies next year, including a Jonas Brothers concert movie in February.

The digital expansion will help convert more screens to show 3-D movies, which have packed theaters and commanded higher ticket prices than their 2-D counterparts.

"It should ultimately improve the grosses," said Chuck Viane, president of domestic distribution for Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. "People will just fall in love with the medium."

Viane expected 1,500 to 2,000 locations, many with multiple screens, would be able to show 3-D movies by the end of 2009.

The studios in the deal include The Walt Disney Co., Viacom Inc.'s Paramount Pictures, News Corp.'s Twentieth Century Fox, General Electric Co.'s Universal Pictures and Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. and the Blackstone Group are leading the financing but will have to tap the turbulent credit markets in the fourth quarter, said consortium chief executive Travis Reid.

"We'll be needing to execute in the debt markets and we hope to do that during the fourth quarter," Reid said. "We don't believe that the markets will be closed forever."

Regal Entertainment Group, one of the consortium's founders, announced in May that it would outfit 1,500 more of its screens with 3-D technology from a company called RealD, contingent on their being equipped with digital projectors.

The technology uses a filter in front of a digital projector to polarize separate images for the left and right eyes, which viewers use polarized lenses to see.

"We ... consider this a major milestone in our ongoing digital conversion and strategy," said Regal Chief Executive Officer Mike Campbell, in a statement.

RealD, which is responsible for 97 percent of the 3-D add-on technology for the digital screens in the U.S., has a contract to install its equipment on another 1,500 Cinemark USA Inc. screens as the digital rollout progresses.

"This triples our footprint," said the company's chief executive, Michael Lewis. "We're trying to work with everyone to get as many RealD screens out there as fast as possible."

AMC Entertainment Inc., Cinemark and Regal Entertainment Group formed the original DCIP consortium in February 2007. The studios each negotiated separately with DCIP to pay for the rollout, which delayed a deal for many months.

Reid said the group hopes to sign several other studios by the end of the year, including Sony Corp.'s Sony Pictures, Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros., The Weinstein Co. and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc.

The rollout is expected to take more than three years.

Meanwhile, a group of independent theater owners operating some 8,000 screens is hoping not to miss the digital wave.

The National Association of Theatre Owners on Wednesday called on studios to sign a similar deal with smaller operators so that "independent exhibitors, often in small towns, are not left behind."

AP

House Peters Jr., left, is seen in this 1951 file photo with his father silent screen star House Peters during the shooting of the Gene Autry film "The Old West".

Mr. Clean actor House Peters Jr. is dead at 92

LOS ANGELES (AP)—House Peters Jr., a TV actor who became the original Mr. Clean in Proctor & Gamble's commercials for household cleaners, died Wednesday. He was 92.

Peters died of pneumonia at the Motion Picture and Television Fund Hospital in Los Angeles, said his son, Jon Peters.

The elder Peters' most memorable role came as Mr. Clean - a muscular man with a bald head, a hoop earring and a no-nonsense attitude toward dirt and grime. From the late 1950s and into the early 1960s, Peters Jr. helped advertise the famous household cleaner with the trademark jingle, "Mr. Clean, Mr. Clean."

Peters Jr. played many supporting roles through his career, including working with Roy Rogers and Gene Autry on their television shows. He also appeared in "Perry Mason," "Gunsmoke," "The Twilight Zone" and "Lassie."

"He always played the heavy," Jon Peters said, referring to his father's customary roles as a villain or brawny character. "Even though he wasn't happy about being cast in those roles, he worked really hard at it."

His father's acting career spanned 1935-1967, according to his Web site. He also wrote an autobiography, "Another Side of Hollywood," in which he describes growing up the son of an actress and silent film actor in Beverly Hills. His father, Robert House Peters Sr., has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Peters Jr. was never a leading man, but played many character parts in cowboy movies and won a Golden Boot Award in 2000 for his lifetime contributions to the western genre, his son said.

Peters Jr. was born Jan. 12, 1916, in New Rochelle, N.Y., as Robert House Peters Jr. His son said Peters Jr. studied drama in high school and became inspired to pursue an acting career.

He also is survived by his wife, Lucy Pickett, a daughter, another son and four grandchildren.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
Ginen I Korason-Mame
To say "thank you or Si Yu'us Ma'ase" may be very simple, yet it comes with sincere interpretation of true feelings from the heart, and it is the expression our hearts are pouring to our many relatives and friends, from near and far, who came and stood by us expressing words of wisdom, comforted us and embraced us with much love as we endure the pain of loss of our dearly beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and sister,
Margarita Manahane Benavente Seman.
Your presence at the daily masses of intention, nightly rosaries, and most especially the day of the funeral, deeply touched our hearts and assures us of how much our dearly beloved is loved in her own special way, is grateful for your presence, love and support.
Our dearly beloved is now at rest and as each day begins, we look forward to keep our dearly beloved's spirit alive and fond memories of her never to be forgotten. Your kindness and love will forever be treasured as we keep them close to our hearts and we ask Almighty God to shower us all with His grace and blessings as we move on with our lives.
UN DANGKULU NA SI YU'US MA'ASE YA SI YU'US HU BENDISE HIT TODOS
Children, Sisters and Family

Attorney: Paparazzi called in tip on Locklear

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An attorney for the woman whose 911 call led to Heather Locklear's arrest says she also snapped paparazzi photos, but alerted authorities for safety's sake.

Attorney Nicholas Tepper says Jill Ishkanian, who operates Sunset Photo & News, acted heroically when she reported an erratic driver Saturday. Ishkanian photographed Locklear's sobriety test, then sold the pictures to TMZ for more than $27,000, Tepper said.

Tepper called the ensuing TMZ posts accusing Ishkanian of alerting a paparazzo to Locklear's impending arrest "lies and innuendo." A phone message for TMZ head Harvey Levin was not immediately returned Wednesday evening.

The California Highway Patrol said Locklear showed "obvious impairment," but alcohol has been ruled out.

In this Jan. 17, 2008 file photo Heather Locklear poses at the world premiere of the film "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert" in Los Angeles.

AP

Spider-Man still backs Colbert

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Stephen Colbert's presidential bid was never serious stuff in the real world, but in the pages of Marvel Comics, the Comedy Central parodist's campaign is alive and well.

Next month, in issue No. 573 of "The Amazing Spider-Man," candidate Colbert not only will meet the world-famous web slinger but also will swing from the rooftops of Manhattan with the hero, according to a page of preview art released by Marvel.

Colbert campaign signs and logos have been popping up in the background of Marvel Comics stories since the company's editor in chief, Joe Quesada, appeared on "The Colbert Report" in January and announced a plan to weave Colbert's White House bid into the superhero universe. That playful stunt will peak with the Oct. 15 issue that has the company's flagship character crossing paths with a dejected Colbert, who is badly rattled by the state of his flagging campaign.

The issue, written by Mark Waid and drawn by Patrick Olliffe, continues a long tradition of television comedy stars appearing in Marvel adventures. Johnny Carson made a cameo in a classic Spider-Man story in 1967; John Belushi and the cast of "Saturday Night Live" teamed with the wall-crawler in 1978; and David Letterman met the Avengers in 1984.

Women's shelter cuts Bernhard from gala after gang-rape line

BOSTON (AP)—A women's shelter on Wednesday cut headliner Sandra Bernhard from its annual benefit after she said Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin would be gang-raped if she ever visited New York.

Bernhard's made the remarks last month during her one-woman show in Washington before Palin visited New York to campaign. Bernhard said Palin would be "gang-raped by my big black brothers" during a diatribe in which she also criticized Palin for opposing abortion rights.

Many guests at Rosie's Place, a Boston shelter, have been victims of violence, public relations director Leemarie Mosca said.

"In light of our mission, we don't think violence against women is a laughing matter," she said.

Mosca said the shelter expected to book a replacement before the Oct. 16 luncheon "Funny Women ... Serious Business."

"Right now, our main focus is our event and making sure the event is a success," Mosca said. "And for us, that means not including Sandra Bernhard at this time."

AP

This June 9, 2006 file photo shows comedian Sandra Bernhard in New York.

A representative for Bernhard had no immediate comment on the cancellation.

In a statement on her Web site, Bernhard said the gang-rape comment was part of a larger piece from her show about "racism, freedom, women's rights, and the extreme views of Gov. Sarah Palin—a woman who doesn't believe that other women should have the right to choose."

"I certainly wish Gov. Palin no harm—I'd just like her to explain to me how she can hold such outrageous views ... and then go back to Alaska," she said.

Team from 'Dreamgirls' to produce Oscars

By SUSAN KING
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has chosen two awards-show newbies to produce the 81st Annual Academy Awards.

Producer Laurence Mark and writer-director Bill Condon, who worked together on the 2006 hit musical "Dreamgirls," were announced Wednesday as the producer and executive producer, respectively, for the Oscars, which will be telecast live on ABC on Feb. 22.

In an interview, Mark said he thought it could be a plus that neither he nor Condon had any awards-show experience, because they could offer a fresh approach. They would like to celebrate not only the excellence in movies but also the fun and enjoyment filmgoers have had in 2008.

Mark didn't give any hints about whom they have in mind to host the show.

SAG negotiators ask board for strike vote

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Screen Actors Guild's negotiating committee voted Wednesday to support a strike authorization vote, a tactic meant to break stalled contract talks with Hollywood studios.

The recommendation, approved 11-2, now goes to the guild's national board for review, and would ultimately need approval of 75 percent of the some 120,000 voting guild members.

"My personal opinion is, yes, we will achieve a strike authorization," said Anne Marie Johnson, a spokeswoman for Membership First, a faction of actors that had controlled SAG's national board until it narrowly lost its majority in elections last month.

"Membership First has always been a strong advocate of having a strike authorization with us while we're negotiating," Johnson said. "That's really a wise way to negotiate."

Contract talks dealing with prime-time TV shows and movies have been at a standstill since the previous contract expired June 30.

Actors have been working under the terms of the old deal in hopes of avoiding a repeat of a 100-day writers strike that ended in February. The strike shut down production of dozens of TV shows and cost the Los Angeles area economy an estimated $2.5 billion.

The studios, represented by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, said the economy is in trouble and urged actors not to strike.

"It is unrealistic for SAG negotiators now to expect even better terms during this grim financial climate," the AMPTP said in a statement. "This is the harsh economic reality, and no strike will change that reality."

The SAG's national board, a 71-member body, is scheduled to meet Oct. 18. A simple majority is needed to approve the call for a strike vote.

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Beverly Hills Chihuahua
Friday 4:05 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:00
Mon and Tue 4:05 7:00
Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG
Synopsis
Chloe, a diamond-clad, bootie wearing Beverly Hills Chihuahua enjoys her luxurious lifestyle so much, she hardly notices Papi, a tough looking Chihuahua who happens to be head-over-paws for the pampered pooch. But when Chloe gets lost in the rough streets of Mexico with only a street-wise German Shepherd to help her find her way home, Papi heads south of the border--joining forces with a motley crew: two humans, a sly rat and a nervous iguana--to rescue his true love.

Blindness
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Tue 4:25 7:30
Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo
Drama, Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
It begins in a flash, as one man is instantaneously struck blind while driving home from work, his whole world suddenly turned to an eerie, milky haze. One by one, each person he encounters—his wife, his doctor, even the seemingly good Samaritan who gives him a lift home—will in due course suffer the same unsettling fate. As the contagion spreads, and panic and paranoia set in across the city, the newly blind victims of the "White Sickness" are rounded up and quarantined within a crumbling, abandoned mental asylum, where all semblance of ordinary life begins to break down.

★ ★ ★

Eagle Eye
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Tue 4:20 7:05
Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Jerry Shaw and Rachel Holloman are two strangers thrown together by a mysterious phone call from a woman they have never met. Threatening their lives and family, she pushes Jerry and Rachel into a series of increasingly dangerous situations--using the technology of everyday life to track and control their every move. As the situation escalates, these two ordinary people become the country's most wanted fugitives, who must work together to discover what is really happening.

Nights in Rodanthe
Friday 4:00 7:10 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Tue 4:00 7:10
Richard Gere, Diane Lane
Romance, Drama • Rated PG 13

Disaster Movie
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:15
Mon and Tue 4:15 7:15
Carmen Electra, Matt Lanter
Comedy • Rated PG 13

House Bunny
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Tue 4:10 7:25
Ana Faris, Katharine McPhee
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Death Race
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:20
Mon and Tue 4:30 7:20
Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

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Jill Jackson's HOLLYWOOD

By JILL JACKSON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

HOLLYWOOD—Dolly Parton has been making the talk-show rounds plugging her shows and songs. At 62 she looks 32, which proves what a cosmetic surgeon's knife can do. She is well-named, because she really is a doll. And did you know that she met her husband, Carl Dean, at the Wishy Washy Laundromat?

Big doings at a Hollywood post office when the Bette Davis stamp was unveiled. Lots of famous faces, all anxious to latch on to one as a souvenir. AND an interesting sidelight—Davis was holding her ever-eternal cigarette in the original photo. That was airbrushed out before the photo became a United States postage stamp. No smoking on stamps!

Robert Wagner's book "Pieces of My Heart" is a good read. It tells of his early days in showbiz, of working with the biggest names in the business and discusses for the first time the drowning death of Natalie Wood back in 1981. He also reveals for the first time a romantic relationship with Barbara Stanwyck, who was 23 years his senior. At the moment, he is happily settled in with Jill St. John. I've known R.J. since he was a young actor just starting out. He has always been a loving friend and perfect gentleman. The book is in stores now.

Bette Davis postage stamp

And further on the subject of books, Toby Young's "How to Lose Friends and Alienate People" has been made into a movie, and what fun! It's about the five years he spent looking for love in all the wrong places. U.S. Weekly says, "It's a scandalous memoir by a former Vanity Fair editor about the magazine industry and the warped New York scene."

Random Ramblings: I don't know about you, but every time I see Sarah Palin I think of Tina Fey. ... Oprah is still the queen of femme talk shows, but she sure is packing on the pounds. ... AND while on the subject of talk-show hostesses, I like Ellen. She's a fine talent, but I'm getting a bit tired of those turned up and out toes in white tennis shoes. ... And also wearying a bit over how many times on one show Dave says "Ladies and gentlemen" and "everybody." So, call me Madame Scrooge!

Looks like the next for Ben Affleck will be "The Company Men," about a man whose life is upended by a financial downsizing. Quite a timely subject for times like these. On the other hand, maybe folks want sheer entertainment to get away from financial difficulties. However, this one will get under way, and box-office takes will tell the tale. Did you know Ben checked himself into an alcohol dependency facility in 2001? He seems to be fine now.

■ ■ ■ ■

BITS 'N' PIECES: Sean Penn gets the British Academy of Film and Television Arts/Los Angeles Stanley Kubrick Award for Excellence in Film on Nov. 6. ... And to those of you who wrote. Yes, I agree. That little diamond-shaped goatee sported by Howie Mandel looks silly! ... Paris Hilton appearing on The Late Show looking very blond, very beautiful and very demure. An all-new Paris? ... And, some couples who came close to marriage but didn't: Clara Bow and Gary Cooper, Kiefer Sutherland and Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt and Gwyneth Paltrow, Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret, Joan Crawford and Clark Gable. ... And that's it for this time.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: My roommate and I have a dinner riding on this bet, so I hope you can help. He says that Usher is playing the Super Bowl halftime show, and I say no. Who's right?—David G., via e-mail

A: You are correct, so I hope you're going somewhere nice. While Usher was a front-runner for the gig because of his standout performance during the NFL season kick-off show, he has been beaten out by The Boss. Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band have been tapped to headline sport's biggest event in Tampa, Fla., on Feb. 1, 2009.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I was very sad to hear of the passing of acting legend Paul Newman. I had heard he was sick for a while, but his representatives hadn't confirmed that he was dying. What happened?—Paula G., Akron, Ohio

A: Paul Newman succumbed to lung cancer on Sept. 26 at the age of 83. The Newman family has been known for its privacy (which, no doubt, helped the longevity of Newman and wife Joanne Woodward's 50-year marriage), so it comes as no surprise that they kept his illness to themselves.

His daughter Melissa advised: "Anybody who wants to honor the memory of my father should know that he was all about doing things for other people. Bring a bowl of soup to a friend, or you could be philanthropic in some way, and just look out for each other." His daughter Nell is set to take over Newman's Own, Paul's philanthropic empire of food products, which has donated $250 million to charity since its inception in 1982.

The Boss, Bruce Springsteen

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I would like to know if the producer Chuck Lorre is related to the movie actor Peter Lorre.—Richard T., via e-mail

A: Chuck Lorre, who was born Charles Michael Levine, has produced numerous television shows, including "Dharma & Greg," "Two and a Half Men" and "The Big Bang Theory." He is of no relation to Peter Lorre (whose real name happens to be Laszlo Loewenstein).

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I became a fan of actor Richard Boone and his acting ability after purchasing his "Have Gun—Will Travel" DVDs. I would like to know more about his personal life and family.—Carol L., Ward, Ark.

A: Richard Boone passed away in 1981 at the age of 63 of throat cancer. Cousin to singer Pat Boone, Richard was best known for his role of Paladin in the popular "Have Gun—Will Travel" television series. He was married three times: to Jane Hopper, Mimi Kelley and Claire McAloon, the latter of whom bore him one child, Peter. Richard was offered the role of Steve McGarrett, the lead character on "Hawaii 5-0," but turned it down. After a long television and movie career, toward the end of his life, Richard lived in Florida. He taught acting classes at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Fla., and became the state's cultural ambassador.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week

1. T.I. No. 2 "Whatever You Like" (Grand Hustle)
2. Pink No. 1 "So What" (LaFace)
3. Kanye West new entry "Love Lockdown" (Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam)
4. Rihanna No. 3 "Disturbia" (SRP/Def Jam)
5. Taylor Swift No. 16 "Love Story" (Big Machine)
6. M.I.A. No. 4 "Paper Planes" (XL)
7. Ne-Yo No. 7 "Closer" (Def Jam)
8. T-Pain feat. Lil Wayne No. 8 "Can't Believe It" (Nappy Boy/Konvict/Jive)
9. Katy Perry No. 12 "Hot N Cold" (Capitol)
10. Estelle feat. Kanye West No. 9 "American Boy" (Home School)

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Metallica No. 1 "Death Magnetic" (Warner Bros.)
2. Ne-Yo new entry "Year of the Gentleman" (Def Jam)
3. Nelly new entry "Brass Knuckles (Denty/Universal)
4. Kid Rock No. 3 "Rock N Roll Jesus" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
5. Darius Rucker new entry "Learn to Live" (Capitol Nashville)
6. Young Jeezy NO. 2 "The Recession" (CTE/Def Jam)
7. DJ Khaled new entry "We Global" (We The Best/Terror Squad)
8. Buckcherry new entry "Black Butterfly" (Eleven Seven/Atlantic)
9. Lil Wayne No. 8 "Tha Carter III" (Cash Money/Universal Motown)
10. The Game No. 7 "LAX" (Geffen)

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Darius Rucker No. 3 "Don't Think I Don't Think About It" (Capitol Nashville)
2. Kenny Chesney No. 4 "Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven" (Blue Chair)
3. Jimmy Wayne No. 1 "Do You Believe Me Now" (Valory)
4. Kid Rock No. 5 "All Summer Long" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
5. Toby Keith No. 6 "She Never Cried in Front of Me" (Show Dog Nashville)
6. Brad Paisley No. 2 "Waitin' On a Woman" (Arista Nashville)
7. Carrie Underwood No. 8 "Just a Dream" (19/Arista)
8. George Strait No. 7 "Troubadour" (MCA Nashville)
9. The Lost Trailers No. 10 "Holler Back" (BNA)
10. Keith Urban No. 9 "You Look Good In My Shirt" (Capitol Nashville)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. Eagle Eye (PG-13) Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
2. Nights in Rodanthe (PG-13) Richard Gere, Diane Lane
3. Lakeview Terrace (PG-13) Samuel L. Jackson, Patrick Wilson
4. Fireproof (PG) Erin Bethea, Ken Bevel
5. Burn After Reading (R) George Clooney, Frances McDormand
6. Igor (PG) animated
7. Righteous Kill (R) Robert De Niro, Al Pacino
8. My Best Friend's Girl (R) Dane Cook, Kate Hudson
9. Miracle at St. Anna (R) Derek Luke, Michael Ealy
10. Tyler Perry's The Family That Preys (PG-13) Alfre Woodard, Sanaa Lathan

TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS

1. Baby Mama (PG-13) Amy Poehler (Universal)
2. The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) Jet Li (Lionsgate)
3. What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) Cameron Diaz (Fox)
4. Street Kings (R) Keanu Reeves (Fox)
5. Prom Night (PG-13) Brittany Snow (Sony Pictures)
6. 21 (PG-13) Jim Sturgess (Sony Pictures)
7. The Promotion (R) Seann William Scott (Genius/Weinstein)
8. Smart People (R) Dennis Quaid (Disney/Miramax)
9. Then She Found Me (R) Helen Hunt (Image/Think Film)
10. The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior (PG-13) Michael Copon (Universal)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. Baby Mama (PG-13) (Universal)
2. The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) (Lionsgate)
3. Barbie & The Diamond Castle (NR) (Universal)
4. Grey's Anatomy: Season Four (NR) (ABC Studios)
5. Smallville: The Complete Seventh Season (NR) (Warner Bros.)
6. The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning (G) (Walt Disney)
7. The Office: Season Four (NR) (NBC)
8. What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)
9. It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia: Season 3 (NR) (FX Productions)
10. Transformers (PG-13) (DreamWorks)

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Brother-in-law quick to move in after couple's separation

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Jill," and I are going through a divorce. I lied to her about money, spent money we didn't have and generally put her and my kids in danger of losing everything. I am doing everything I can to be accountable, but since we separated six weeks ago, Jill has slept with at least one person and is developing a "friendship" with my sister's husband. (I'll call him "Jack.")

I understand that this isn't my business, but Jack is spending more time with my children (ages 1 and 3) than I can because I'm working two jobs.

I told him he's not welcome at my wife's house as I pay the rent. I said the same thing to Jill, and they agreed that it's not a good idea for him to be there. It's still happening, though, and I'm very hurt by it and nearing the end of my capacity to deal with it.

My sister's marriage is destroyed. My marriage is over. While my sister and I do our best to cope, Jack and Jill are having the time of their lives playing house while I pay for it. My relationship with my children is being undermined, and I don't know what to do.

BESIDE MYSELF IN NORFOLK

DEAR BESIDE YOURSELF: I understand your frustration, but your ability to dictate who comes to the house and spends time with your wife—and by extension, your children—ended when you moved out. For your own sake, I strongly recommend you schedule a meeting with the legal counsel who is representing you in your divorce and set up a regular schedule of visitation with your children. But the sooner you understand that you can't stop Jill from entertaining whomever she pleases in her dwelling, the better off you will be.

P.S. Your sister also has my sympathy, but what's going on now should be a clue that she'll be better off without him.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My life has been a continuous learning experience. My mother-in-law used to give me gifts that were either cracked or broken. I was offended, but never said anything except "thank you." After her death we had to go through her things, and it was then that I realized that just about everything she owned was chipped or broken.

When one of my children had a falling-out with a friend, I, too, would be upset. But when I would see my child and the offending friend back together the next day, I learned to hold my tongue.

Most recently, a man ran a stop sign, rammed my car and left me with a broken back. From that I learned what a dim view insurance companies have of homemakers. When asked if I was losing time at work, I answered with an honest "yes." Then came the question, "What do you do?" When I replied that I am a housewife, I learned there was no coverage because what I do isn't considered "work." Thanks for listening.

STILL LEARNING IN CAMP HILL, PA.

DEAR STILL LEARNING: Thank you for sharing some of the lessons you have learned at the University of Life. You might be interested to know that in 2006, Al Neuharth—the esteemed founder of USA Today—wrote a Mother's Day column on the value of stay-at-home moms. In it, he quoted job analysts at Salary.com, who said, "... the lowest-paying parts of a mom's job are housekeeper, laundry machine operator and janitor. Higher-paying categories include computer operator, facilities manager, psychologist and family CEO." He concluded by saying that stay-at-home moms work "an average of 91.6 hours a week ... worth $143,121 annually."

Of course, that was in 2006—when everything was cheaper.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Springsteen to perform at Obama rally in Michigan

YPSILANTI, Mich. (AP)—Rock star Bruce Springsteen was headlining a rally Monday afternoon for Democrat Barack's Obama's presidential campaign at Eastern Michigan University.

Obama's campaign was announcing Thursday that Springsteen would play a free acoustic set and headline the rally at Oestrike Stadium.

Ticket details were not immediately available.

Springsteen also was scheduled to perform Saturday at a Philadelphia rally and again Sunday at Ohio State University.

Springsteen and Billy Joel are to perform at an Obama campaign fundraiser in New York City on Oct. 16.

Hip-hop star Jay-Z to perform at Obama voter drive

AP

In this Sept. 10, 2008 file photo, rapper Jay-Z arrives at a benefit for the LeBron Conde Family Foundation at the Ralph Lauren mansion in New York. Jay-Z will perform Saturday, Oct. 3, 2008, at Detroit's Cobo Arena to promote voter registration.

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Jay-Z is doing an encore for Barack Obama.

The 38-year-old rapper, a vocal supporter of the Democratic presidential candidate, is performing Saturday at a free concert in Detroit to promote voter registration. It is being offered by Obama's campaign.

Monday is the deadline in Michigan to register to vote in the November 4 election, prompting the last-minute push.

The Grammy-winning rapper, whose hits include "99 Problems," "Encore" and "Hard Knock Life," has been promoting Obama for a while, flashing his photo during concerts and telling fans that it's time for a change—one of Obama's mottos. Jay-Z has also designed a T-shirt for sale by Obama's campaign.

Obama has said Jay-Z is one of his favorite musical artists.

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DR. CORNEL WEST DANITY KANE
CHARLES BARKLEY BOW WOW RICK ROSS FAT JOE NAS
+ THE BEST RAPPER ALIVE REVEALED (Pg. 114)

Obama tells Vibe readers 'I need you' in letter

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack Obama has a message for the readers of Vibe: "I need you."

In a letter to be published in the November issue, the Democratic presidential candidate is given a page to address the readers of the urban music monthly magazine. In it, Obama urges them to register to vote, saying, "We are at a defining moment in our history."

"I am running for president to take this country in a new direction. But I can't do it alone. I need you," the letter reads. "Whether it's the first time, or the first time in a long time, I need you to register and vote on November 4."

Obama is featured on the cover of the magazine for the second time—the first was for the September 2007 issue. He also gets the endorsement of the magazine, the first presidential endorsement ever made by Vibe.

In this image released by Vibe magazine, Democratic presidential candidate sen Barack Obama, D-Ill., is shown on the cover of the November 2008 issue of "Vibe."

AP

DiCaprio, Berry among celebs getting out the vote

NEW YORK (AP)—How do you get kids to vote? Just say no.

Leonardo DiCaprio, Halle Berry, Jennifer Aniston, Tobey Maguire, Eva Longoria Parker and other stars are using reverse psychology to get young people into voting booths on election day.

In a new public service announcement that hit YouTube and other online outlets Wednesday, DiCaprio says: "Please - just don't vote." Others echo his plea: "Don't vote."

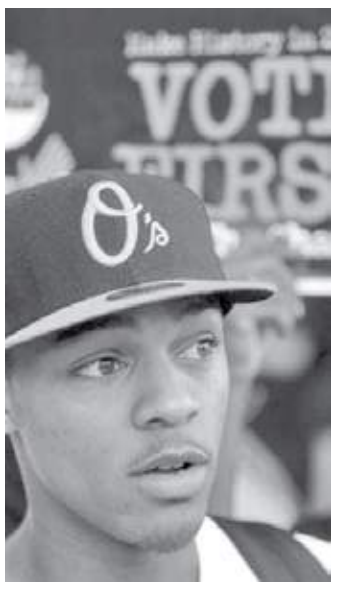
But the stars soon twist the message: Voting is a civic duty and the only way to effect change.

"I mean, seriously, ... after this whole video - if you're not gonna vote, I don't even know what to say. ... You know you have to vote," says DiCaprio, who produced the PSA.

Also appearing: Ellen DeGeneres, Forest Whitaker, Dustin Hoffman, Demi Moore, Sarah Silverman, Jonah Hill, Ashton Kutcher, Courteney Cox, Laura Linney, Natalie Portman, Jamie Foxx, Usher, Kyra Sedgwick and will.i.am.

In this May 19, 2007 file photo, Leonardo Dicaprio poses during a photo call for the film "11th Hour," at the 60th International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

AP



Entertainer Bow Wow talks to reporters before he and about 50 followers walk through the streets of Atlanta, Wednesday, Oct 1, 2008, to kick off his 15-city tour to urge people to register to vote for the upcoming presidential election.

AP

Rapper Bow Wow kicks off voter registration tour

ATLANTA (AP)—Bow Wow once thought that politics was only for "old folks," but the 21-year-old platinum-selling rapper said he's had a change of heart and wants other young people to vote.

"I used to think going to the mall and hollering at girls (was) more important," he said. "But in reality, we are in a different time now. My focus now is to take it a step further to make a change and vote."

On Wednesday he kicked off a 15-city tour urging people to register for the Nov. 4 general election. He and about 50 followers spent most of the day walking more than two miles from downtown Atlanta to nearby colleges.

Bow Wow, whose real name is Shad Moss, said he felt compelled to act after seeing the financial struggles of his family and friends but he's not promoting any specific candidates.

Other cities on the tour include: Philadelphia; New York; Washington; Baltimore; Boston; Nashville, Tenn.; Hartford, Conn.; Mobile, Ala.; Richmond, Va.; and Columbia, S.C.

Several other hip-hop artists are also pushing for fans to vote, including moguls Russell Simmons and P. Diddy and Atlanta rappers Young Jeezy and T.I.

Bow Wow, who began his rap career at age 13, has sold over a million records on three different albums. He recently appeared on HBO's "Entourage."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THERE'S EARTH! WE'RE ALMOST HOME!
LOOK, YOU CAN SEE THE CONTINENTS.
HMM... IF I REMEMBER MY ATLAS, WE LIVE IN A BIG, PURPLE COUNTRY.
AND OUR HOUSE IS BY THE GIANT LETTER "E" IN THE WORD "STATES."
©1988 Universal Press Syndicate
10/3

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

DO YOU REMEMBER MYRNA, THAT GIRL I TOOK OUT ONCE?
THE ONE WITH THE HUMONGOUS NOSTRILS?
THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT
I NEVER DID FIND MY KEYS THAT NIGHT
JIM DAVIS
www.garfield.com
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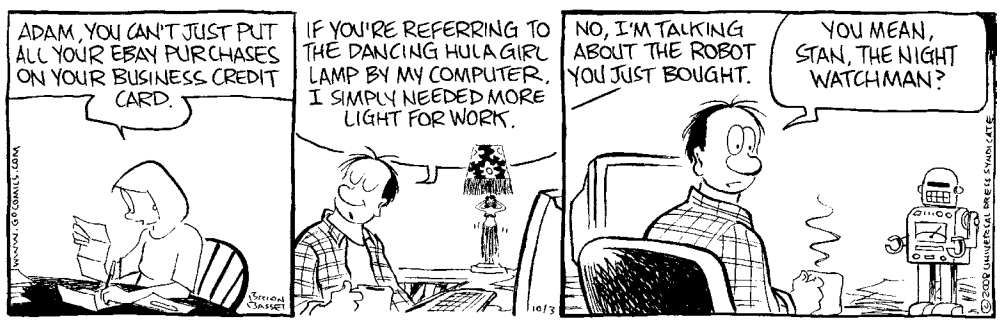
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, YOU CAN'T JUST PUT ALL YOUR EBAY PURCHASES ON YOUR BUSINESS CREDIT CARD.
IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE DANCING HULA GIRL LAMP BY MY COMPUTER, I SIMPLY NEEDED MORE LIGHT FOR WORK.
NO, I'M TALKING ABOUT THE ROBOT YOU JUST BOUGHT.
YOU MEAN, STAN, THE NIGHT WATCHMAN?
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM
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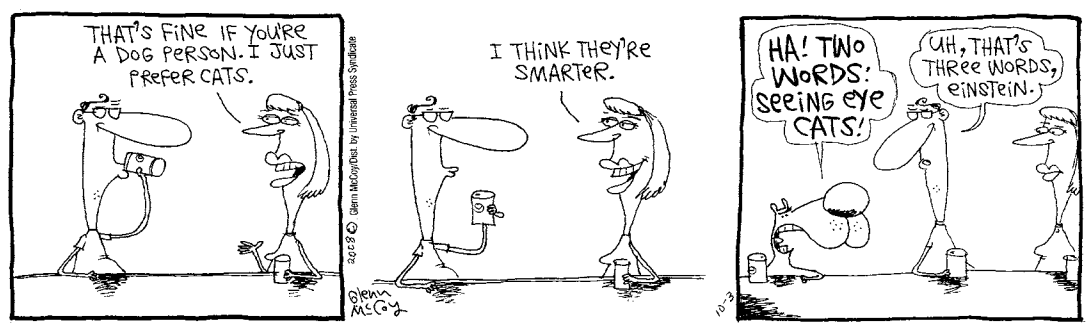
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THAT'S FINE IF YOU'RE A DOG PERSON. I JUST PREFER CATS.
I THINK THEY'RE SMARTER.
HA! TWO WORDS: SEEING EYE CATS!
UH, THAT'S THREE WORDS, EINSTEIN.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

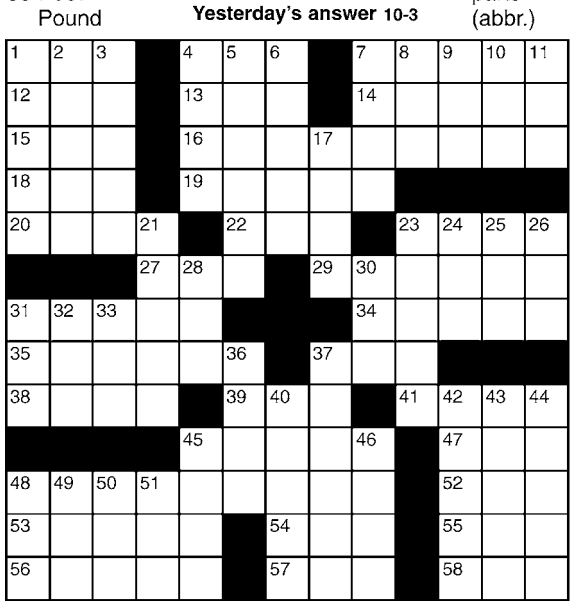
ACROSS
1 Mischief-maker
4 Bird that lays green eggs
7 Rhino's cousin
12 Atl. state
13 PC-sharing setup
14 Unaccompanied
15 Greek vowel
16 Tour de France activity
18 Hindu title
19 Apportion
20 Bustle
22 "A mouse!"
23 Rams fans?
27 Frenzied
29 Cassandra Peterson's stage name
31 Belly-button
34 Arts supporter
35 Slow passage
37 Announcer Pardo
38 Poet Pound
39 Air-pressure meas.
41 Hearty drink
45 Hot spot at a spa
47 Chromosome component
48 Eco-friendly activity
52 Hill dweller
53 Old market place
54 Afternoon social
55 Ball-bearing item
56 "The Planets" composer
57 Blunder
58 Storefront sign abbr.

DOWN
1 That is (Lat.)
2 Paris subway
3 Tartan pattern
4 Exile isle
5 Sent via the USPS
6 Quitter's cry
7 Diplomacy
8 The whole enchilada
9 Luau bowlful
10 B&B
11 — U.S. Pat. Off.
17 Oxen's burden
21 The end
23 Cowgirl Dale
24 Minn. neighbor
25 Before
26 Frivolous one, in song
28 Will Smith biopic
30 Author Buscaglia
31 Dundee denial
32 Wood-shaping tool
33 Kin of: alt sp.
36 Milky gemstone
37 Main meal
40 Hotel accommodation
42 Ire
43 Central
44 Microsoft founder
45 "Begone!"
46 Culture medium
48 "Hurray!"
49 Id counterpart
50 Army rank (Abbr.)
51 Decade parts (abbr.)

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	I	S	■	L	A	R	A	■	S	P	A	M
A	D	O	■	I	R	I	S	■	U	L	N	A
J	O	Y	S	T	I	C	K	■	N	E	O	N
■	■	S	I	T	■	H	E	N	B	A	N	E
H	O	A	X	E	D	■	D	Y	E	■	■	■
E	M	U	■	R	I	P	■	C	A	B	A	L
M	I	C	K	■	O	A	F	■	M	O	R	E
S	T	E	E	D	■	W	A	G	■	Y	E	A
■	■	■	S	U	E	■	Q	U	A	S	A	R
P	R	E	T	E	X	T	■	I	N	C	■	■
L	I	A	R	■	T	O	Y	S	T	O	R	Y
A	C	R	E	■	O	G	E	E	■	U	K	E
Y	E	L	L	■	L	O	S	S	■	T	O	N

Yesterday's answer 10-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashlee Simpson, 24; Eric von Detten, 26; Neve Campbell, 35; Gwen Stefani, 39

Happy Birthday: Don't let emotional deception lead you in the wrong direction. Someone you are close to may not tell you the whole truth this year. Ask questions so you can troubleshoot if need be. Use your intuition to guide you and you will not make a mistake. Think before taking action. Your numbers are 5, 11, 17, 23, 36, 39, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take stock of what you have done and what you still want to do. As an Aries, repeating something becomes boring. Move on to the next goal on your list and take it by storm the same way you do everything else. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't get stuck in the middle of someone else's dilemma. An opportunity to try something new or go somewhere different should be taken advantage of. It will help you professionally and personally. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take control and make all the arrangements for a fun social time with friends or colleagues. Meeting someone new will reinforce who you are and what you are looking for. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Before you decide to throw in the towel, consider the consequences. You have too much to gain by taking action. Turn something you attend into a networking event that will put you in the running for a new position. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stop looking for trouble or you will find more than you bargained for. Chill out and refrain from getting into any conflicts. You cannot win, no matter what you say or do. Your intuition will guide you to mental, emotional and physical safety. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Travel, be lighthearted, generous and affectionate—it will pay off. A sudden change will enhance your professional and personal position. Follow your heart. Your approach to life, love and happiness will be admired. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Give in to your desires, your creativity and your need to do something unusual. Push yourself to the limit and you will come up with an idea that gets thumbs-up from everyone around you. Be honest with yourself concerning emotional issues. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Do the unexpected and you will have a captive audience, allowing you to push your thoughts and ideas. Press ahead to change your lifestyle to suit you. Don't procrastinate—action is the only road to happiness. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get with whatever program can help you get what you want. Do what you do best and cultivate your skills to new levels. You don't have to do the running around this time. If you build something, everyone will come to you. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be skeptical of anyone offering too much for too little. The hidden costs or the person's ulterior motives will surface, leaving you in a vulnerable position. Be the one full of surprises instead of the one startled. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You've got what you need and want so don't let someone talk you into stepping down. There is a chance to turn your life around if you are ready to take the steps to independence. Believe in your own abilities. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll make mistakes if you let your emotions stand in the way of making a rational decision. Slow down and let the dust settle before making a move or a comment. A love matter can be worked out. Be patient and listen. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed and intense. You follow your heart and you are passionate when you speak. You try to incorporate diplomacy but will do whatever is necessary to fulfill your goals.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					7			
		2	4		6	3		
	1	7				9	6	
5	8						3	
				9				
	7						4	2
	9	4				6	5	
		5	2		8	1		
			5					

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	4	6	8	7	2	1	5
2	7	8	1	5	4	3	9	6
1	5	6	3	9	2	7	4	8
7	1	9	4	2	6	5	8	3
3	4	5	8	7	1	6	2	9
6	8	2	9	3	5	1	7	4
8	2	3	7	6	9	4	5	1
5	9	1	2	4	3	8	6	7
4	6	7	5	1	8	9	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TONY SNOW REMEMBERED 1955-2008 **Solution: 8 letters**

O	L	R	N	B	E	T	U	T	I	T	S	B	U	S
I	I	S	W	E	E	K	E	N	D	S	E	S	F	S
D	V	P	N	A	L	A	L	T	B	A	T	T	L	E
A	E	E	D	O	S	L	T	A	R	R	N	A	U	R
R	V	E	A	P	L	H	E	S	T	E	P	P	T	P
O	I	C	N	E	R	O	I	Y	D	M	B	S	E	E
T	T	H	A	R	O	H	C	N	A	A	O	O	D	R
A	A	W	I	I	O	R	O	D	G	C	T	I	R	S
T	V	R	N	N	M	P	E	I	E	T	T	F	T	O
N	R	I	I	O	S	T	E	C	C	O	O	I	C	N
E	E	T	G	E	R	U	O	A	R	X	D	N	E	A
M	S	E	R	O	L	N	N	(T)	N	E	A	E	P	L
M	N	R	I	A	O	D	(S)	E	E	L	Y	T	S	I
O	O	T	V	M	O	(O)	W	D	H	O	U	S	E	T
C	C	R	Y	R	(H)	S	E	C	R	E	T	A	R	Y

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Anchor, Battle, Beats, Cameras, Candor, Colon, Commentator, Conservative, Correspondent, Dana, Detroit, Economy, Editor, Ellen, Fine, Flute, FoxNews, Host, House, Live, Perino, Personality, Press, Radio, Respect, Robert, Room, Secretary, Spats, Speechwriter, Style, Substitute, Syndicated, Talk, Today, Value, Virginia, Washington, Weekend

Yesterday's Answer: Magazines

SALE: The topics of 'Wonderword for Kids' appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 psh for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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- Candidate must have strong communication skills in English, both oral & written.
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- Directs division or department managers, supervisors operations and changes to be implemented.
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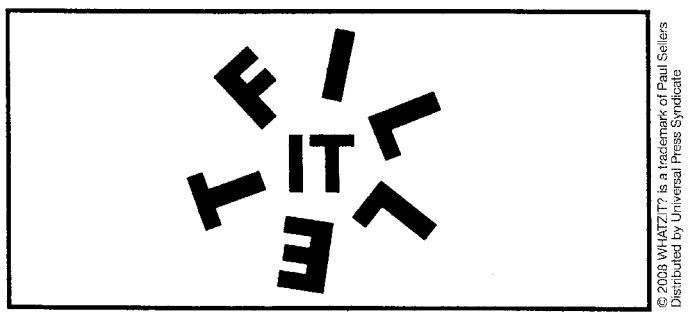

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Saipan Tribune

Bay's homer sparks Red Sox to win over Angels

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—No matter how much the Los Angeles Angels dominate Boston in the regular season, the Red Sox roll in October.

Jason Bay hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off John Lackey in the sixth inning, and the World Series champions beat the Angels 4-1 Wednesday night in the opener of their AL playoff series.

Acquired in the three-team trade that sent Manny Ramirez to the Los Angeles Dodgers, Bay brought Boston back from a 1-0 deficit in the first postseason game of his career, and the Red Sox got a big start from John Lester (1-0), who allowed only an unearned run in seven innings.

"It's big. Any time you can come into another team's ballpark and win is huge," Lester said.

Los Angeles won eight of nine regular-season games between the teams this year, outscoring the Red Sox 42-17 in the final six. But the Red Sox have won 10 straight postseason games against the Angels dating to 1986, including first-round sweeps in 2004 and 2007 en route to World Series titles.

Boston tied a major league record for consecutive postseason wins over the same opponent, a mark Oakland set against the Red Sox from 1988-03.

The Angels will try to draw even Friday night in Game 2 of the best-of-five series, with Ervin Santana pitching against Boston's Daisuke Matsuzaka.

While just four of 28 teams to lose NL division series openers have come back to win series, it's been an even 14-14 split in the AL, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"We had some chances early, and couldn't get some hits to fall in," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "Lester was on his game. He's having a terrific year. He's got a great arm and his velocity was up a bit from earlier in the year and he was able to get the fastball on both sides of the plate."

With Boston clinging to a 2-1 lead and rookie Justin Masterson on the mound, Jacoby Ellsbury made a great diving catch on Mark Teixeira's sinking fly to center starting the eighth.

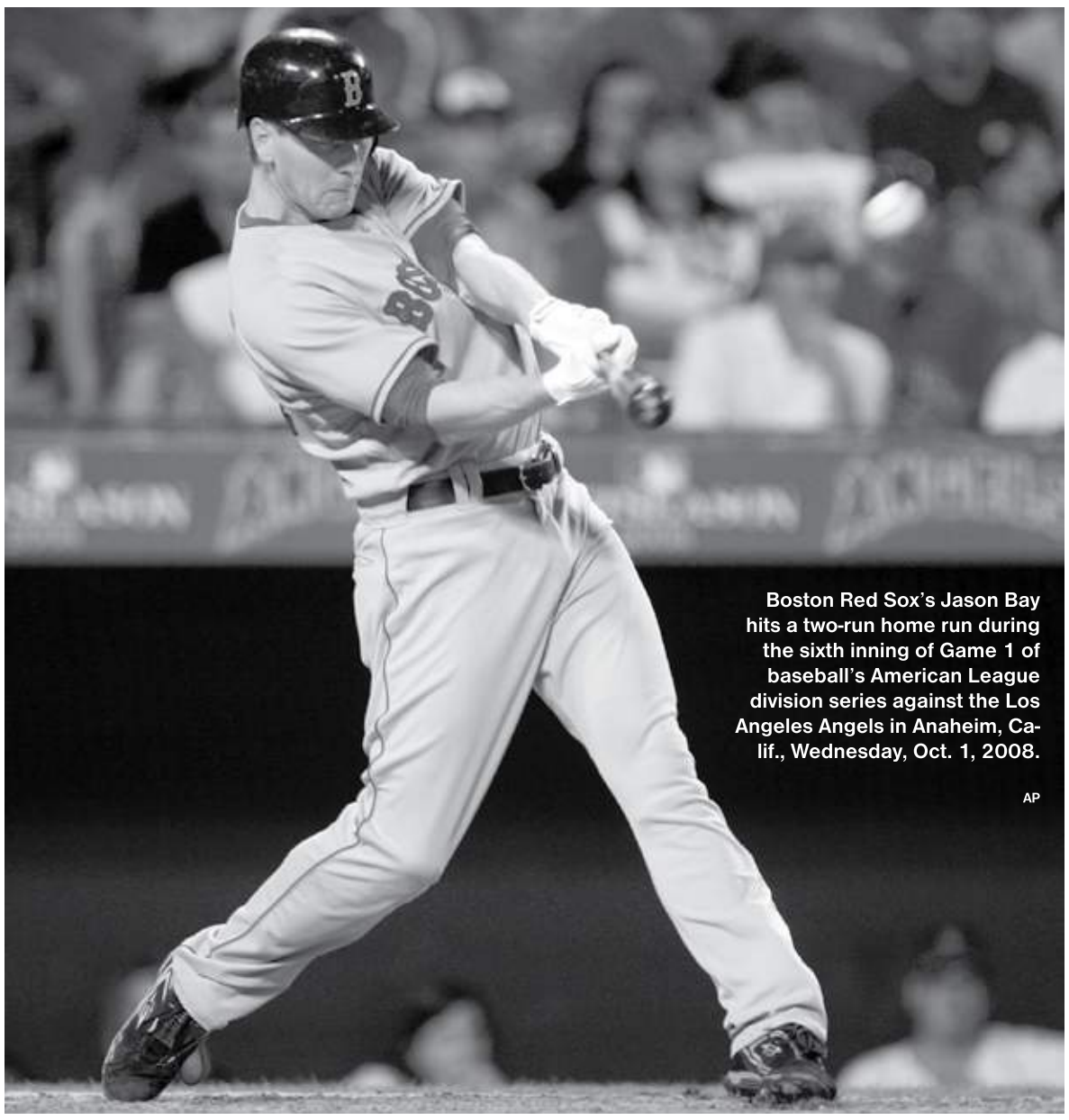
"I thought he had no chance. It just looked like it was in no-man's land," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Vladimir Guerrero followed with a single before Torii Hunter blooped a hit over first baseman Kevin Youkilis, who quickly recovered and easily threw out Guerrero at third.

"Vlad is aggressive, and it was a tough read, and it was behind him, and I thought he thought the ball was a little further out there than it was," Scioscia said. "And give Youkilis credit. He maintained his composure, got the hop and made a good throw to third base."

Ellsbury and David Ortiz added RBI singles in the ninth off Scot Shields, and Jonathan Papelbon finished for his fifth postseason save, extending his postseason scoreless streak to 15 2-3 innings.

The Angels broke on top with an unearned run in the third on Hunter's two-out, RBI single. Garret Anderson hit a one-out single and, after Teixeira struck out, rookie shortstop Jed Lowrie muffed Guerrero's grounder before Hunter lined a 1-2 pitch to left that dropped in front of Bay.



Boston Red Sox's Jason Bay hits a two-run home run during the sixth inning of Game 1 of baseball's American League division series against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif., Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008.

AP

Lowrie, making his postseason debut, set a major league record for rookie shortstops by handling 155 chances without an error in 49 games at that position during the regular season.

Bay hit an 0-1 pitch far over the left-field fence with Youkilis aboard. He flipped his bat as he began his home run trot upon leaving the batter's box, long before the ball landed in the seats beyond the double-decker bullpen.

"He tried to get a fastball by Jason. Fortunately for us, he didn't," Francona said. "He was really holding us down."

Bay, who hadn't faced Lackey previously, looked bad in striking out in his first two at-bats in. He also doubled in the eighth.

"I was trying to get used to the game," Bay said. "I had never seen him before. He left a fastball up and I hit it."

Lester got the Game 1 assignment after Josh Beckett was pushed back to Game 3 because of an oblique problem. He retired his final seven batters, striking out four, and only one outfielder had a putout during his stint. Lester struck out seven and walked one.

"We took the lead, he came back with a vengeance," Francona said.

The Angels, who wrapped up the AL West title with 2 1/2 weeks left in the regular season, finished with a franchise-best 100-62 record that was tops in the majors. But they lost for the eighth time in 10 postseason home games since winning the 2002 World Series.

Lackey, who won Game 7 of that World Series, allowed two runs and four hits in 6 2-3 innings with three walks and five strikeouts.

"John pitched a terrific ballgame and certainly gave us a chance to win," Scioscia said. "He didn't make many bad pitches tonight."

Phillies 3, Brewers 1

At Philadelphia, behind their top two arms, the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Milwaukee Brewers in their National League first-round playoff opener for their first postseason victory in 15 years.

Cole Hamels pitched eight brilliant innings, Brad Lidge escaped a ninth-inning jam and Philadelphia took advantage of Mike Cameron's miscue in center field to earn its first postseason win since the 1993 World Series.

Chase Utley's two-run double slipped out of Cameron's glove in the third inning, sending Philadelphia to a 3-0 lead. Lidge allowed a run in the ninth but struck out Corey Hart with runners on second and third to end it.

Game 2 in the best-of-five series is on Thursday, with ace CC Sabathia going to the mound for the wild-card Brewers on three days' rest for the fourth consecutive start. Brett Myers pitches for the Phillies.

It'll be tough for anyone to match Hamels' superb performance. The left-hander retired the first 14 batters and allowed two hits, striking out nine.

Lidge, 41-for-41 in save chances during the season, pitched out of trouble. The Brewers had the tying run at the plate when Prince Fielder fanned for the second out. After J.J. Hardy walked to put two runners on, the runners advanced on a wild pitch. But Hart struck out swinging to end it.

Making his second start since returning from surgery for a torn knee ligament, Milwaukee starter Yovani Gallardo got rattled after his defense fell apart in the third.

Dodgers 7, Cubs 2

At Chicago, James Loney hit a go-ahead grand slam off a wild Ryan Dempster, Manny Ramirez and Russell Martin homered and new-look Los Angeles beat Chicago in their playoff opener.

The Cubs entered the postseason with the best record in MLB, hoping for a fast start 100 years after their last World Series championship.

But Ramirez and manager Joe Torre, winners of six World Series crowns in the American League, wound up on top in their first playoff game together. Ramirez's homer was his 25th in the postseason, extending his own record.

It was a good omen for the Dodgers. The last time they started a postseason series with a victory was the 1988 World Series.

The Cubs will try to get even in Game 2 on Thursday night when they send mercurial right-hander Carlos Zambrano against Chad Billingsley.

Torre made his 13th straight postseason managerial appearance—the previous 12 were with the New York Yankees—and extended his record for postseason wins to 77 in a match-up with another veteran skipper, Lou Piniella.

The Cubs took a 2-0 lead on Mark DeRosa's homer in the second inning off Derek Lowe, but the Dodgers rebounded against Dempster, who had trouble finding the strike zone all night.

Dempster walked the bases loaded in the fifth, and Loney sent a 1-2 pitch over the wall in center for the grand slam that gave the Dodgers a 4-2 lead and silenced the Wrigley Field crowd.

MLB BRIEFS

Red Sox ace Josh Beckett on track for Game 3 start

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Josh Beckett played long toss Wednesday before the Boston Red Sox and Los Angeles Angels began their AL division series, and remains on track to start Game 3 on Sunday in Boston. "He has to answer some physical questions every step of the way, and today was a good one," Boston manager Terry Francona said. "Now, if everything goes OK, he'll throw his side tomorrow, but we reserve the right to make a change if we don't think it's in his best interest physically. But he's had a real good last couple of days and today was another good day. "Now, part of that is the evaluation of how they respond later and do they stiffen up," Francona added, but so far everything has been pretty positive." And if Beckett can't go? "We really don't feel the need to announce, you know, some of that might be how we get there. We'll see," Francona said. "We'll obviously have a backup plan." Beckett, originally scheduled to start Game 1, injured a muscle in his side last Friday during a bullpen session. He pitched a complete-game, four-hit shutout with no walks and eight strikeouts in the opener of last year's first-round series. The Red Sox won 4-0, and went on to sweep the three-game series to give them nine straight postseason wins over the Angels.

Mets' Santana undergoes successful knee surgery

NEW YORK (AP)—Mets ace Johan Santana had arthroscopic surgery on torn cartilage in his left knee Wednesday and is expected to be ready for spring training. News of the injury came as a surprise. Santana pitched a three-hit shutout on short rest Saturday against Florida to pull the Mets into a tie for the NL wild card. They were eliminated from playoff contention the following day. "Johan's exit physical, standard for all players, took place yesterday," general manager Omar Minaya said in a statement Wednesday. "An MRI revealed a torn meniscus in his left knee, which necessitated surgery. Johan had mentioned some mild discomfort after his start in Washington, which did not preclude him from facing the Cubs or Marlins last week. Most important is that the operation was successful and he'll be ready to go before spring training." Santana was brilliant in his first season with the Mets, going 16-7 with a major league-best 2.53 ERA and 206 strikeouts in 234 1-3 innings after coming over from Minnesota in a blockbuster trade in February. The two-time AL Cy Young Award winner just completed the first season of a $137.5 million, six-year contract.

Cashman gets 3-year deal to remain Yankees' GM

NEW YORK (AP)—Brian Cashman figures he has more work to do with the New York Yankees. After a sustained run of success, he wasn't about to leave on the heels of a failed season. Cashman is staying on as general manager of the Yankees, agreeing Tuesday to a three-year contract that runs through 2011. "I've got a job to finish here," Cashman said in a statement. "That's the bottom line." New York missed the playoffs this year for the first time since 1993. Cashman took over as GM in 1997 and his current deal was set to expire at the end of October. He was expected to re-sign, especially after Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner told Cashman earlier this season that the team wanted him back. But there had been rumblings that Cashman might be interested in running another club—perhaps one without such a vocal, hands-on ownership group. "I consider coming off a season where we didn't reach the playoffs for the first time since 1993 as a personal challenge. I've never been one to run from a challenge, and I look forward to having the chance to go after this thing again," Cashman said. "It's an incredible opportunity and honor to hold the title of general manager for the New York Yankees. With it comes a great responsibility to ownership, the people who wear the uniform and our fan base."

Pats' Belichick silent on Moss tampering charge

AP

New England Patriots wide receiver Randy Moss (81) is surrounded by media during an availability in front of his locker at the team's football facility in Foxborough, Mass., Wednesday, morning Oct. 1, 2008.

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Patriots coach Bill Belichick denied Wednesday the claim by Raiders owner Al Davis that New England had a workout with Randy Moss before obtaining him in a trade with Oakland.

Davis said Tuesday that the Patriots had tampered with Moss before the deal in April 2007 that brought the wide receiver to the Patriots for a fourth-round choice that year on the weekend of the NFL draft.

"I've told the story about Randy many, many times," Belichick said in a conference call with members of the media covering the 49ers, "and the first time I ever talked to Randy was the Sunday morning of the second day of the draft last year.

"So that's the first time I met him. That's the first time I talked to him. There was no workout. There was no other contact with him."

Davis made the tampering accusation after ending a news conference in which he announced the firing of coach Lane Kiffin.

Asked Wednesday if he had a response to Davis, Moss said, "No, not at all."

Belichick sidestepped the question when asked by New England reporters, saying he was concentrating on Sunday's game at San Francisco.

In an e-mail to The Associated Press, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Wednesday, "No tampering charges have ever been filed with our office with respect to Randy Moss."

Moss, disgruntled for most of his two seasons with the Raiders, set an NFL single-season record with 23 touchdown receptions in his first season with New England.

Davis said other teams didn't want Moss before the Patriots obtained him.

"You know how many teams turned him down?" Davis said. "That guy in Green Bay thought he couldn't run any more. Even Denver, where they'll take anybody, turned him down."

He did not identify the person in Green Bay.

Davis said former Raiders senior personnel executive Michael Lombardi, who was fired 10 days after the Moss trade, spoke to Belichick about Moss.

"What's his name knew he could run, he's a friend of Belichick's. Mike Lombardi," Davis said Tuesday. "Mike sold what's his name, Belichick, on the idea that he could run. They tampered with him. I remember (Patriots owner) Bob Kraft saying that he had to look him in the eye and all that. They went down and worked him out, he could run. He's their team, of course, with the quarterback."

Moss had 98 catches during the regular season last year, 22 in the first three games. With Brady out for the season after hurting his knee in the opener, Moss has 12 catches in three games.

Cardinals WR Anquan Boldin has fractured sinus

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Anquan Boldin has a fractured sinus as a result of what he acknowledges was the worst hit he's received in his football career.

The Arizona Cardinals standout wide receiver doesn't know how long he will be sidelined, but when he returns, he says, there will be no change in his trademark tough, aggressive style.

"For me it was just a part of football," Boldin said after watching his teammates practice on Wednesday. "It's an unfortunate incident that happened but, you know, you take your bumps and bruises."

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell suspended New York Jets safety Eric Smith for one game and fined him $50,000 for the vicious, helmet-to-helmet hit on Boldin in the end zone during the waning seconds of the Jets' 56-35 victory over the Cardinals at the Meadowlands on Sunday.

"You never know somebody's intentions," Boldin said, "but I didn't think it was intentional."

Arizona coach Ken Whisenhunt said it wasn't for him to say whether the punishment was warranted.

"I think the commissioner certainly has made it very clear that player safety is an important issue," Whisenhunt said, "and I think he addressed that."

Boldin said he was consulting with doctors on whether to have the sinus repaired or let it heal on its own. He expected a decision "in the next couple of days."

According to the Web site, eMedicine, a high-impact sports injury is the second-most often cause of a sinus fracture. The most common cause is an automobile accident.

Whisenhunt said that until he hears from doctors, he is not ruling out Boldin's participation in Sunday's home game against Buffalo, although it seems highly improbable that he would play.

The two-time Pro Bowl receiver scoffed at any suggestion that this would change his bruising, aggressive style.

"As soon as I get back on the field, it's the same old me," he said. "I don't plan on altering the way that I play, because if I did, I wouldn't be Anquan."

Boldin, his face swollen and his lip cut, said he remembers everything about the play and its aftermath, although he said he may have lost consciousness for an instant.

He crossed the middle of the end zone and went high for Kurt Warner's throw. Boldin was hit in the back by the Jets' Kerry Rhodes, then from the front by Smith, snapping the receiver's head violently backward.

"I have a pretty good grasp of everything that went on, and after it all happened," Boldin said, "everybody all came out, me trying to get up and walk off the field, them telling me to be cautious, just lay there. I remember everything."

NFL BRIEFS

Henry arrested after alleged cocaine deal

DENVER (AP)—Former Denver Broncos running back Travis Henry has been arrested following an alleged cocaine deal, the Drug Enforcement Administration said Wednesday. Henry and James Mack were arrested a day earlier after the two met to buy cocaine from a person who was cooperating with authorities, according to an arrest warrant affidavit. Mack and Henry were in federal custody on suspicion of knowingly and intentionally conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine. They were advised of charges Wednesday. A preliminary hearing and detention hearing were scheduled for Monday. It was not immediately known whether Mack had an attorney. Henry's attorney, Harvey Steinberg, confirmed he was representing Henry in the case but declined to comment on the charges when reached by The Associated Press. The case has its roots in Montana, where a trooper and DEA agent stopped a car that was carrying six pounds of marijuana and about three kilograms of cocaine on Sept. 16, the affidavit said. A passenger in the car, whose name was not disclosed in the affidavit, told authorities Mack and Henry had supplied him with the drugs, which he was supposed to deliver to customers in Billings. The man said he was supposed to be paid $5,000 for delivering the drugs and transporting about $63,600 in sales proceeds to Henry, according to the affidavit. The affidavit indicated that separately, the passenger and another customer in Billings already owed Henry about $40,000 in drug proceeds. The passenger told authorities Henry had threatened him and his family over the debt. The passenger agreed to cooperate with authorities and set up a drug deal Tuesday with Henry that led to the arrests of Mack and Henry, the affidavit said. Broncos coach Mike Shanahan declined comment Wednesday, saying it wouldn't be fair to say anything until he knew the facts of the case. Henry was released from the Broncos June 2, when Shanahan said his commitment was lacking. Henry signed a five-year, $22.5 million contract with the Broncos before the 2007 season, but was dogged during training camp by a sprained left knee.

Report: Ricky Williams fights off urge to use pot

MIAMI (AP)—Ricky Williams says he was briefly tempted to smoke marijuana during the Miami Dolphins' bye weekend, an act that could have ended his roller-coaster NFL career. Williams has been in the league's substance-abuse program since 2002 and has tested positive for marijuana. Williams told *The Miami Herald* for Tuesday's editions that when players were given Friday off, "automatically your mind, which is so constrained since training camp began ... says, `I'm free, what can I do?'" "So there was definitely an urge," he said. "But I just thought about what I have to lose, and it was easy. The urge didn't last very long." Since 2004, the Dolphins running back has played only 16 NFL games, including three this year. If Williams were to smoke marijuana again, he would likely be out of the NFL for good because he has already violated the league drug policy four times. "There's no space, no wiggle room for me," Williams said. He said that doesn't scare him, because he feels he's in control and on the right path. He said he successfully combated the latest urge to smoke by meditating instead, which gives him the same "feeling of being free" as marijuana. "A lot of times when people have some kind of addiction, what happens is they make a mistake and trip up and afterward say, `I don't know what I was thinking,'" he said. "If you always try to be aware of what is going on in your mind, you won't ever get to that point where it's too late."

French anti-doping chief challenges Armstrong

PARIS (AP)—It's just like old times for Lance Armstrong.

Hours after the French anti-doping authority challenged the seven-time Tour de France champion to agree to retest his 1999 urine samples to see whether a French newspaper was right when it reported they contained a banned substance, Armstrong rejected the notion, lashing out at the agency's leader, Pierre Bordry.

"Unfortunately, Mr. Bordry is new to these issues and his proposal is based on a fundamental failure to understand the facts. In 2005, some research was conducted on urine samples left over from the 1998 and 1999 Tours de France," Armstrong said in a statement Wednesday night. "That research was the subject of an independent investigation, and the conclusions of the investigation were that the 1998 and 1999 Tour de France samples have not been maintained properly, have been compromised in many ways, and even three years ago could not be tested to provide any meaningful results.

"There is simply nothing that I can agree to that would provide any relevant evidence about 1999."

Even so, the proposal renewed debate about one of the most contested questions surrounding Armstrong: whether he was clean when he won. He has always insisted that he was, and his new team, Astana, is hiring a drug-testing expert, who will post Armstrong's drug testing results on the internet, to try to silence doubters.

In a statement, the agency proposed the rider "prove his good faith" by agreeing to retesting of his samples from the 1999 Tour, the first in Armstrong's record string of seven wins.

The samples are frozen in a drug testing laboratory in the suburbs of Paris. They've been a source of controversy since L'Equipe reported in 2005 that a new round of tests on the "B" samples found EPO, a blood-boosting hormone that enhances endurance.

The agency said it was acting in the interests "of objectivity and of justice and to allow the cyclist Lance Armstrong to cut short the rumors concerning him, if they are unfounded."

In drug testing, urine is divided into "A" and "B" samples, and both must show traces of a banned substance for the test to be declared positive.

But only remains from six "B" samples have been kept from Armstrong's 1999 Tour, the French agency said. So even if the "B" samples came back positive in new testing, there are no "A" samples left against which to compare results.

Armstrong said then he was the victim of a "witch hunt." A Dutch lawyer appointed by cycling's governing body later cleared Armstrong. But Dick Pound, who then led the World Anti-Doping Agency, said the lawyer's findings were full of holes. And in his statement, Armstrong said that independent investigation recommended the issues be taken before an independent tribunal.

"Two years ago I agreed to have all of these issues aired and decided by that tribunal, but WADA and the French Ministry refused," Armstrong said. "If Mr. Bordry would now like to re-examine the past, he must start with presenting the issues of the misconduct of the French laboratory, the French Ministry, and WADA before a proper tribunal."

Bordry told L'Equipe he wanted to act as "a referee" between the newspaper and Armstrong. But Bordry seemed to already have an opinion, speaking to the newspaper of samples "which contain erythropoietin (EPO)."

"I want this comeback to take place in the best circumstances," L'Equipe quoted him as saying in its Wednesday edition. "This way, he will perhaps have the chance to affirm that he never cheated during his brilliant career."

Coach D'Antoni has Knicks off and running

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP)—Mike D'Antoni stood near the sideline Tuesday with arms folded, smiling as he watched players speed by during full-court drills. At that moment, he might've been the only one in the gym enjoying himself.

D'Antoni's New York Knicks are going to play fast, just like his Phoenix teams did for the past 4 1/2 seasons. But it takes a lot of work to have that much fun, as the players surely realized while huffing and puffing their way around Skidmore College's gymnasium in the first practice under their new coach.

"I remember that going into college (at Florida), Billy Donovan said we want to press 40 minutes a game, and everybody said, 'Man, that's like such a fun way to play,'" forward David Lee said. "And you get into preseason doing two-a-days and you say, "Oh my God, I can't breathe.' It's a lot harder than it looks on television. It's fun on TV, but it's not. That's the way this is."

It should pay off though, especially for a team that struggled to stick to a style under former coach Isiah Thomas. Thomas wanted to play uptempo two seasons ago, then scrapped that idea last season after acquiring Zach Randolph to pair with Eddy Curry. When his brand of power basketball didn't work, he tried to shift back to a faster pace.

The result was a team that ended up doing nothing particularly well.

D'Antoni is only going one way—fast—and it'll be up to his players to keep up. Or, as he put it: "Who can come with us, comes with us."

Though certain his style can win in the NBA, D'Antoni wasn't always sure it was right for the group he was going to inherit in New York. At his introductory press conference in May, he said his preference was to play fast, but he could adapt to the skills of the players around him.

He certainly didn't want to, and now he doesn't think it's necessary.

"Looking at the film and then really watching the last month of basketball in the training center, watching them play, they can do it," D'Antoni said. "So I didn't know that for sure, and coming into a situation I might have to adapt a little bit. But you know what, they can do what we want to be done. So now I'm like real excited because I think we can do what we've preached before, what we've done before and get it done."

The Knicks who practiced Tuesday—ailing center Curry and injured first-round pick Danilo Gallinari didn't—spent plenty of time working on D'Antoni's system during full-court drills, learning what spots to run to on the fast break, and where the best shots would come from.

"It's not as easy as you would think it is," guard Jamal Crawford said. "It looks like coming down, shoot whenever you want and that's that. But there's definitely a method to his madness, definitely a lot of hard work, a lot of running, a lot of getting after it."

Gallinari doesn't seem close to returning from a back injury that's sidelined him since July. Curry developed a fever Monday night and was held out because of a bacterial infection—which D'Antoni joked was probably good for a player who figured to have trouble with all the running.

"It's going to be a struggle at first in training camp and probably some of preseason," Lee said, "not only getting in shape to play this way but figuring out the reads and how everything is going to work and knowing the chemistry on the floor, playing a different style. But once you figure that out, by about that third and fourth quarter when the other team is out of shape and they're tired and you're running the ball ... it all pays off."

D'Antoni said there will be some tweaks, but his main principles will remain the same. That means the Knicks—a team that barely practiced late last season—will have to be in superb condition to handle the pace D'Antoni will have them play at.

They held up well Tuesday, but everything usually looks good on opening day.

"Today everybody's got the adrenaline, but three days from now we could be in the mud," D'Antoni said. "We'll see what happens on that one."

NBA BRIEFS

Ginobili continues recovery from ankle surgery

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—There was no noticeable limp when Manu Ginobili walked into the San Antonio Spurs training facility Monday. Even better, there was no sign of bad feelings from his teammates. Ginobili, who had surgery on his left ankle in early September, could miss at least two months of the season. Though off crutches and out of a protective boot, he's still got plenty of rehab. "It could be a blessing he's gotten operated on, and (surgeons) went in there and cleaned things out," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Had he not hurt it in the Olympics, he probably would have done it 15, 25, 35 games into the season. "His ankle probably would be in better shape now than it's been in years." Popovich had advised the 31-year-old Ginobili not to play for Argentina in China after he hurt the ankle during the Western Conference semifinals against New Orleans, then aggravated the injury in the Western finals against the Los Angeles Lakers. The Spurs have delayed contract extension talks until Ginobili recovers from surgery. The sixth-year guard has two seasons remaining on his contract. "They told me eight to 12 weeks, so I'm looking for eight," he said. "I would like to make it for the beginning of the season, but I know they are going to be very cautious."

Ben Gordon accepts 1-year, $6.4M offer from Bulls

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago guard Ben Gordon accepted the Bulls' one-year, $6.4 million tender offer just before the deadline Wednesday night. A restricted free agent, Gordon was looking for a long-term deal that never materialized. He led the Bulls in scoring last season with an 18.6 average. "He's very happy to be able to go back and play basketball," agent Raymond Brothers said. "He looks forward to talking to the Bulls next summer about an extension." Chicago's leading scorer the past three years, Gordon can not be traded this season but could leave as an unrestricted free agent next summer. He had few options this time. He was unable to work out a sign-and-trade deal and rejected the idea of playing overseas since the Bulls would have retained his rights. The only other option would have been a multiyear deal. The fifth-year guard was present but did not participate in a morning practice at the Bulls' suburban training facility, a team spokesman confirmed. He was a no-show for a late afternoon session, but he will be there on Thursday. "Absolutely," Brothers said.

Greg Oden rolls ankle as Blazers begin practice

TUALATIN, Ore. (AP)—Portland center Greg Oden is OK after rolling his right ankle during the first day of training camp. "He's fine," Trail Blazers coach Nate McMillan said Wednesday. "Everybody, he's fine. He's OK." Oden, who missed all of his rookie season because of knee surgery, was injured Tuesday during a drill while pushing fellow center Joel Przybilla for rebounding position. After walking with a slight limp, he finished practice by riding a stationary bike.

ZERO DOWN
WASHING MACHINES
No more waiting!
No more laundromats!
No more hassles!
See store for details and many other GREAT products for your home.
"We've Got It All"
BEDROOM SETS,
DINING ROOM SETS,
STEREO SYSTEMS, TELEVISIONS,
WASHING MACHINES,
REFRIGERATORS and
much much more…
THIS IS A RENTAL-PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND NO OWNERSHIP RIGHTS ARE ACQUIRED UNTIL TOTAL AMOUNT IS PAID OR EARLY BUYOUT OPTION IS EXERCISED.
DIAL Rent-to-Own
No Credit Checks!
No Repair Bills!
No Long Obligations!
234-RENT
SAIPAN
Middle Road, Gualo Rai next to Subway.
DELIVERY

Surprise finalist Purefoods keeps pre-season trophy

Steady finish gives Giants win over SMB and 2nd Pre-Season title in a row

PASIG CITY, Philippines—Rico Villanueva scored 22 points and Roger Yap made a key steal in the closing seconds as the Purefoods TJ Giants held off the San Miguel Beermen in an exciting finish, 85-82, Sunday to repeat as champions in the PBA Pre-Season Tournament at the newly built Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

After playing catch-up for three quarters, the Giants turned the game around with a big fourth quarter largely on the power plays of Villanueva and Kerby Raymundo and the clutch hits of James Yap, back in the lineup after missing two games with a sprained ankle.

In a game that featured two teams with equal strength and bench depth, the Giants capitalized on terrific anticipation, excellent defense and constant hustle.

The Giants trailed 61-71 at the end of the third but opened the final period with a 10-to-nothing run and tied the count on a hard drive by James Yap four minutes into the fourth.

A 3-pointer by James Yap, cheered on by wife actress-TV host Kris Aquino from the stands, with 3:21 remaining gave Purefoods a 78-76 lead.

Raymundo finished with 19 points, seven rebounds and four assists while James Yap added 16.

"The guys played inspired basketball. We started poorly but we kept our patience and regrouped. And once we found our rhythm we made at a run at it (championship)," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

"This is unbelievable. We're supposed to be resting today but for some reasons we found ourselves playing in the finals and the next thing we knew we're champs again. This may just be a tune-up tournament but we felt great with what we have accomplished. Hopefully our campaign this season will have the same ending."

Alaska (3-0) and Rain or Shine (2-1) passed up their rights to play in the championship game in favor of team-building sessions that were booked coinciding with the championship.

The Beermen opened a 14-3 lead three minutes into the game on a 3-point shot by Mick Pennisi and appeared to have the game well under control with Dorian Pena (13 points), Mark Pingris (8 points) and Pennisi asserting their size in the paint.

But the Beermen lost their edge in the second half largely because their shooting went sour.

A three-point play and a transition basket by Raymundo gave Purefoods an 83-82 lead with 89 seconds left.

The two teams then traded miscues and missed shots before Pingris deflected a shot by Roger Yap enabling the Beermen to go for the winning play.

But SMB couldn't execute well. Mike Cortez fed Washington what appeared to be a soft pass that was intercepted by Roger Yap that paved the way for James Yap to close scoring with two free throws.

Purefoods 85 – Villanueva 22, Raymundo 19, J. Yap 16, Lanete 7, Simon 6, R. Yap 5, Alonzo 4, Belga 4, Aban 2, Robinson 0, Salvador 0, Bugia 0.

SMB 82 – Seigle 14, Pena 13, Custodio 9, Pingris 8, Washington 6, Pennisi 6, Bono 6, Hontiveros 5, Racela 4, Cortez 4, Gonzales 4, Calaguio 3, Tugade 0.

Quarterscores: 14-22; 37-45; 61-71; 85-82. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

Another banner year in the offing

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine Basketball Association is coming out of the box, so to speak, in celebrating its Season 34, promising not just exciting action but also to showcase the other side of the players.

The new PBA season, opening Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum, will not just be about the games but also sharing and caring.

With all its successes, the PBA is giving back to the public, particularly the youth.

"We're doing many things outside of basketball. We'll show the other side of the players. We'll show their soft, warm hearts. We'll give time for the benefit of the youth," said PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios during the official launch of the new PBA season at the Diamond Hotel on Roxas Blvd. Wednesday.

The season-opening Philippine Cup has Kentucky Fried Chicken as the title sponsor in line with the league's youth-oriented theme this season.

The 10 teams will have school children as guests in the inaugural rites where US Ambassador Kristie Kenney is the special guest of honor.

League officials are hopeful of another banner season with a slew of exciting rookies, beefed-up teams plus new partners venturing into strategic tie-ups with the league.

"We look at the coming season with great enthusiasm, encouraged by the successes of the past season. We want to sustain the momentum. The teams upgraded their lineups through the Draft or by trading, and this alone ensures intense competition this season," said Barrios.

"The watching public has been very supportive. We've got positive response and acceptance on practically all activities the PBA has undertaken so far -- from the Rookie Camp, the drafting and the pre-season tourney. All were resounding successes, making us really excited about this coming season," Barrios added.

PBA Board chairman Joaqui Trillo said they don't intend to sit on their laurels, promising to put up a collective work to have a better product to offer to the PBA fans.

Solar Sports people are as excited as they set out on the first year of their three-year deal with the PBA, promising more angles in which TV viewers can see the action and new technology to parallel the US-based networks' coverage of the NBA.

A reloaded PBA starts with a lone game between Talk 'N Text and Coca-Cola held right after the opening ceremonies.

The festivities are spread over the weekend with a twinbill set at the Cuneta Astrodome Sunday. Air21 and Rain or Shine collide at 4 p.m. then Alaska Milk and San Miguel Beer clash at 6:30 p.m.

Reigning Philippine Cup titlist Sta. Lucia and Fiesta Conference champion Barangay Ginebra mix it up in the 7:30 p.m. mainer back at the Big Dome Wednesday. It's Purefoods versus Red Bull in the 5 p.m. curtain-raiser. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

HARD WORK

From Page 44

Rafael a ticket to Fiji.

"It was one of those scary victories," said John, who let Rafael start playing tennis at the age of five.

"We want our kids to get involve in many sports and have them choose what's best for them," Flor said.

Rafael plays soccer and was once enrolled in swim lessons, but focuses more on tennis.

Asked how was Rafael like when he was just starting swinging the racquet, John said "he was terrible, you know kids when they start playing, they just go there not thinking of winning or losing because they wanted more to be with their playmates."

But when Rafael began joining tournaments at the age of six, a competitor was born winning one tournament after another in various age groups.

Rafael, who was not named after Rafael Nadal, but admits the Spaniard clay court specialist is his idol, said he still needs a lot of improvement despite having a breakout year this season.

"I have to be more consistent with my game and focus on my footwork. I also need to work hard on my forehand and backhand," Rafael said.

Rafael needs consistency and more power in his game, as he will be up against tough Kiwi and Aussie netters when he competes in three tournaments in New Zealand.

He is dividing his time between study and training sessions to prepare for the New Zealand tournaments.

Rafael is training with Race three times a week and also swings racquet with Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan instructor Peter Loyola.

Training sessions usually last for two hours after school. When he comes home, Rafael still has to study, as he wants to remain in SIS's honor roll.

"Sometimes we will see him almost asleep while doing his homework. It is a lot of sacrifice for an honor student like him to find time to play competitive tennis and still make time for your study. But he knows he has do it as this will benefit him in the future," said John, who someday wants his son to play for a college team.

EAGLES

From Page 44

The Eagles, then, made a couple of returns, an ace from the serving Das, and two errors from the Storms that tied the game at 18-all.

That prompted Storms' coach Cameron Armstrong to call a time out.

On the other hand, coach Mark Robles sent back his first stringers, D.W. Jeon, Taylor, Kinsella, Batallones, Das, and Nathan Chargualaf.

The Storms momentarily got back the lead 21-18 before the Eagles finished them off with three service winners and two slashes from Jeon, a drop shot by Chargualaf, and the winning one-handed return near the net by Taylor.

The Eagles are the defending champions while the Storms finished second last year.

Despite the twin defeats to the Eagles, coach Armstrong said the Storms still have a chance to go all the way.

"As long as my players learn how to keep control of the game, we still have our chance," Armstrong said of his boys.

He said he is confident of his players because they have been playing for a long time.

The morale of the team, he said, is high and they only need to do well in practice to finally beat the Eagles, the only team they lost to after beating all the other teams this season, so far.

Earlier in the day, the JV Eagles streaked to their eighth win for an 8-0 record in the middle school division by winning over Saipan Community School, 25-8, 25-9.

Results of other games were unavailable as of press time. SIS Blue played against Calvary Christian in both divisions, Seventh Day Adventist hosted Whispering Palms in the middle school, and Mount Carmel played at home against SIS Green at home in both divisions.

ROTARY

From Page 44

Games in the regular season will be played for more than two weeks, as the league failed to hold regular games this week due to the unavailability of players, referees, and a coach.

The Junior Nationals are in Guam competing in the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament, while G-Stars mentor Jose Tumaquip is coaching the CNM cagebelles in the same event. Two CNMI referees are also in Guam.

The Rotary caging did not have games Tuesday and Thursday nights and only resumed action last night with the undefeated Sixers battling the Southern Sonics.

Nine more games will be played starting next week before the 18-and-under caging enters the playoff round.

On Oct. 7, the Rollers I will take on the Rollers II. Other games scheduled are Suns vs. Sixers; G-Stars vs. Kontenders; Junior Nationals vs. Rollers I; Suns vs. Sonics; Rollers I vs. G-Stars; Junior Nationals vs. Sixers; Rollers I vs. Saints; and Junior Nationals vs. G-Stars.

The Junior Nationals are this year's defending champion, beating the Sonics in last season's finals, 98-91. The Sixers the G-Rollers I battled for the consolation match with the former winning the third place trophy after pulling off an 85-84 win.

CNMI

From Page 44

a 23-8 run in a span of six minutes put Tahiti in the driver's seat, 40-26.

The Commonwealth's bets never recovered from thereon.

The CNMI's next game will be against the loser of the Australia vs. Papua New Guinea quarterfinals match, which was played late last night. The CNMI and three other losing quarterfinalists will be battling for fifth to eighth place.

Guam and Australia, which topped Pool B and A, respectively, and New Caledonia are expected to join Tahiti in the semifinals.

For the third straight game, pool play No. 1 scorer Jericho Cruz top-scored for the CNMI, firing 23 points. He added seven rebounds, five steals, and three assists. Cruz shot 10-for-19 from the field for a 53-percent field goal shooting clip.

Four other CNMI cagers finished in double figures with Marvin Rabauliman chipping in 16, Bill Babauta making 12, Jayvan Tarkong adding 11, and Jomary Tumaquip contributing 10.

Tereora Dauphin paced Tahiti with 18 points, while Maui Tepa and Roura Laufattes had 14 apiece. Rehiti Sommers scored 12.

The CNMI kept pace with Tahiti in scoring in the second half, but the biggest lead that the French territory established in the second quarter was enough to give them a 23-point win. Tahiti outscored CNMI by only five in the third quarter, 23-18, and by a point in the fourth, 24-23.

Tahiti shot better from the field, going 38-for-84 for a 45-percent clip against the CNMI's 33 percent via a 28-for-88 shooting.

Tahiti also had more triples with four against the CNMI's two, and dominated the boards, 51-35, and assists department, 28-14.

With Tahiti hustling off the boards, it was able to get 33 second-chance points against the CNMI's only 18.

Meanwhile, 16 teams competed in the 3-on-3 tournament Wednesday. The tournament aims to prepare Oceania players for the 2010 World Youth Olympics in Singapore.

Showtime, which was composed of Guam's Jaymeelynn Cruz, Australia's Kerryn Harrington, Fiji's Anna Teine and Katherine Titoko, and PNG's Poenui Tehaamoana won the women's division title.

The Go Getters topped the men's division, leaning on the CNMI's Jose Castro, New Caledonia's Biran Bourgade, Fiji's Martin Liebregts, Guam's Norvin Garduque, and Australia's Anthony Drmic.

A cultural show in the evening capped the one-day festivities.

Tahiti 97 – Dauphin 18, Tepa 14, Laufattes 14, Sommers 12, Taputu 9, Teriierooiterai 8, Mui 8, Rossi 7, Dury 7.

CNMI 74 – Cruz 23, Rabauliman 16, Babauta 12, Tarkong 11, Tumaquip 10, Borja 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-18, 50-33, 73-51, 97-74.

Voyagers pound Shark, Home Boys trip Spotters

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

PTI Voyagers and Primo's Home Boys kept their composure as they defeated their rivals in their respective divisions of the ongoing Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

The Voyagers pounded Coral Reef Shark Attack, 4-0, at home to widen their lead in the Agingan Division. They now tote a 22-2 win-loss record.

The team of Roman Rodriguez, Rolly Villanueva, Amor Zapanta, Jojo Talibong, and Jean Cadag racked up round wins of 44 in the first, 47 in the second, and 42 in the third for a total of 133.

Shark Attack, composed of Vince Mareham, Bill Limes, Patrick Taitano, Ben Norita, and Bernard Kileleman, had rounds of 43, 42, and 40 for a total of 125 in their losing effort.

They are now 4-24 at the bottom of the team standings.

Islander Rent A Car and the SaipanCell Hustlers halved points against their respective rivals to remain in a logjam in second to third places.

Islander and SaipanCell are tied with 18-10 win-loss marks after splitting points with USSP Wat-Ever and Godfather's Rock Steady, respectively.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Members of PTI Voyagers pose during a photo session break in their game against Coral Reef Shark Attack at Jonny's Bar last Tuesday night. The Voyagers won the game, 4-0, to keep the lead in the Budweiser 8-Ball League Agingan Division.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Players of Coral Reef Shark Attack smile for the camera during a break in their game against eventual winner PTI Voyagers last Tuesday night at Jonny's Bar.

Boyet Sequico, Jomer Enriquez, Eric Caisip, Don Antonio, and Joey Cruz had rounds of 38, 50, and 32 for a total of 120 for Islander, while Wat-Ever's Rose Phillips, Norman Tenorio, Norlos Kapileo, Ed Manucdoc, and Simer Kapileo finished with 44, 27, 47, and 118.

On the other hand, the Hustlers' Jerry Soriano, Erwin Gomez, John Ricofort, Joey Lucido, and Senen Pangelinan submitted rounds of 37, 47, and 34 for total of 118, while Godfathers' Gary Pangelinan, Pat Camacho, Bill Pangelinan, Sam Babauta, and Mike Sablan had 40, 31, and 42 for total of 113.

Wat-Ever stayed in fourth place with 9-15 record, while Rock Steady lagged behind in fifth with 9-19.

In the Obyan division, Primo's Home Boys are on top with 18-10, D'Pirates Huwa second (16-12), Perfect Spotters third (15-13), USSP Fotten Palau fourth (14-14), Coral Barracuda fifth (12-16), and VFW Warriors sixth (9-19).

The Home Boys' Mario Diola, Nolan Cultura, Franz de Luna, Jorge Lizardo, and Junacho Mendoza beat the Krystal Perfect Spotters, 3-1, after coming in with 40, 32, and 42 for 114 against the opposition's 35, 39, and 33 for a 107 total.

Fifth-running Barracuda scored the night's big upset, 3-1, over second-ranked D'Pirates Huwa.

Barracuda's Ray Basa, Ray Takai, John Camacho, Ed Suzuki, and Gerald DL Guererro closed out with rounds of 40, 54, and 45 for 131, while Huwa had 50, 40, and 36, for 126.

In the other Obyan Division match-up, Fotten Palau posted a similar 3-1 victory over cellar dweller VFW Warriors.

Fotten Palau is composed of Annie Tesiro, Jaylor Watanabe, Mei Rengiil, Ron Chisato, and Ike Rengiil, who came up with 39-45, and 38 for 122. The Warriors had 41, 25, and 34 for a total of 90 in the loss.

Brotherhood, PTI strike anew in BASA League

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Brotherhood and PTI won over their respective opponents last Sunday to further tighten their grip of the lead in the men's division of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association slow-pitch league at the Dandan Ballfield.

Jerry Ayuyu, Julian Camacho, Stan Laniyo scored homeruns to cap a 10-run explosion in the second inning that gave Brotherhood a 10-0 victory over unheralded Ngiwal.

The win was Brotherhood's ninth in 10 games and allowed them to keep the solitary lead. Ngiwal is in 10th place with 1-8 win-loss mark.

PTI also remained in solo second with its 9-2 win-loss record after winning over Man Amigos, 14-6.

Bill Camacho led PTI's onslaught with three runs, Theo Minor, Roque Camacho, Frank Cruz, and Frank Camacho had two each while Manuel Techur, Wise Aguon, and Isaya Masao chipped in one each.

Joey Dela Cruz homered in the first of his three runs he scored in the game but his effort went for naught as Man Amigos absorbed their third defeat in eight games and stayed in fifth.

Auel Auel moved to third from fourth with its 8-3 card following its 10-0 blanking off Haga-T.

Lucian George, Steven Igisair, and Patrick George reached home plate twice, while Delvin Kadiasang, Melvin Aldan, Martin Ayuyu, and Vince Reyes once for Auel Auel.

Haga-T further skidded to a 2-9 record in ninth place.

In the other exciting game, Choll Aces prevailed over Sai-Pal, 8-3.

The Aces are now 6-4 in fifth spot, while Sai-Pal is 5-6, in a tie with PIC in seventh to eighth places.

Games next Sunday will see the start of the playoffs in the women's division.

Top ranked Hitters will meet third-running Ohn Sakau at 1pm.

Before that second-ranked Sakudi will square off with fifth-running Atu Asi at 10am.

The current team standings are Hitters (8-1), Sakudi (8-1), Ohn Sakau (4-5), Esta Ombe (3-6), and Atu'Asi (2-7).

Games in the men's side will feature Man Amigos against SaiPal at 11am, while Choll Aces will face Ready Mix at 12pm, and the pacesetting Brotherhood will battle Man Amigos at 2pm.

Futsal referee briefing today, boot camp tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Organizers of the NMIFA 2008 Women's Futsal Fall League are putting the finishing touches on the preparation for the inaugural event which will kick off next week at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

Today, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Referee Committee will be holding a preseason referee briefing and training for the futsal league.

The training session will start at 6:30pm at the NMIFA Office located on the third floor of the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

NMIFA director of referees Catherine Anderson said the training is open to experienced referees interested in learning the rules of futsal.

Futsal is an indoor football game with teams having five players each on the court. It demands quick reflexes, fast thinking, and accurate ball control. Games are played in a basketball-style court, with no walls and a low-bouncing ball, requiring players to use their skill rather than the ball's bounce to propel it.

After the referee training session, league organizers will be holding the last futsal boot camp tomorrow at the Navy Hill Field.

The boot camp aims to prepare new and returning players for the futsal league. Members of the CNMI Women's National Team will facilitate the boot camp and will be assigned to various stations. In each station, participants will be taught of the futsal rules and the basic skills in the sport, which include passing, dribbling, and defending.

The boot camp will conclude with a scrimmage among participants and members of the CNMI Women's National Team.

The boot camp will run from 10am to 12nn.

The league will open shop on Oct. 11 with games to take place in the morning at the NMC Gymnasium. The complete schedule will be announced after lineups are finalized.

League organizers are looking to have six teams batting for the inaugural league title with each squad consisting of five to 10 players.

Interested individuals have until tomorrow to register. Entrance fee is $20 per player. The league will play until Dec. 16.

"New and inexperienced players are most welcome. The woman's soccer league is an excellent way to meet new people, get in shape and have fun," said Laura Williams of the NMIFA Women's Committee.

To register in the league, contact Williams at 483-9453 or 323-9453 or via email at laurawilliams7@gmail.com. For the referee clinic, contact Anderson at 288-84-33.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI strikers compete in a futsal tournament in Guam last year. This fall, NMIFA will be holding a women's futsal league.

5 teams to vie for weekend's KOD wildcard

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Five teams will vie for the wildcard entry in the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Modified Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament at the Capital Hill Ballfield this weekend, Oct. 4-5.

After three qualifying rounds, three teams—Shell Marianas, Natibu, and Sai-Pal—have already reserved spots in the Final Four that will compete for the lone ticket to represent CNMI in the Tournament of Champions to be hosted again by Palau next month.

Shell Marianas topped the first two qualifying rounds to stay in the No. 1 position in the Final Four, to be played on Oct. 10-11.

Natibu earned the No. 2 spot by placing second in the second qualifying round.

Sai-Pal took the No. 3 spot by beating Shell Marianas in the third qualifying round last Sept. 13-14.

The five teams that will play for the No. 4 spot are Sai-Pal, Total Chaos, On Da Rox, SUFA, Natibu, and Auel Auel.

The rankings were based on their performances in the first three qualifying rounds.

Sai-Pal was second in the first round, thus earning the first slot while Total Chaos was third to occupy the second position.

On the Rox just managed a fifth place finish in the second round but enough to take the third slot while SUFA placed sixth for fourth.

Natibu will be in the fifth slot for the wildcard qualifying round after placing third in the third qualifying round, while Auel Auel placed fourth and will be on the sixth spot this weekend.

Shell Marianas, then carrying the name No Ka Oi, thrice represented the CNMI and won all three Tournament of Champions in 2005 in Palau, 2006 on Saipan, and 2007 in Guam.

The game is open to all legal Saipan residents, 18 or older, except the employees of Marpac Inc.

A team will have maximum of 15 players to include two or more females on the roster plus a manager and a coach. Homeruns will be called an automatic out.

Voyagers pound Shark, Home Boys trip Spotters

PTI Voyagers and Primo's Home Boys kept their composure as they defeated their rivals in their respective divisions of the ongoing Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bay's homer sparks Red Sox to win over Angels

No matter how much the Los Angeles Angels dominate Boston in the regular season, the Red Sox roll in October.

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Hard work pays off for Rafael

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

This December, Rafael Jones will be flying to New Zealand, a trip that four months ago his parents thought would not happen, as the CNMI netter almost did not make it to Fiji.

Fiji was the venue of the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship, a tournament that allowed Jones to show his wares and win over OTF's nod to have him included on the Pacific Oceania Touring Team to New Zealand. Jones made it to the semifinals of the POJC.

To make it to Fiji, Jones and 15 other CNMI netters had to go through the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam and collide with Palau, FSM, and the host bets.

SPORTS FLIGHT

While Jones' teammates—Christian Miller, Mayuko Arriola, Dina Jones, Thea Minor and Ji Hoon Heo—had already secured slots on the North Team, the 13-year-old Saipan International School student fought for dear life.

Actually, the sixth spot on the North team will still go to the Commonwealth, as Jones battled fellow CNMI netter Jake Lee in the semifinals.

But while CNMI was in a win-win situation, the second semifinals in the boys' 13-and-under division was a make or break for Jones.

Jones lost in the first set, 5-7, but recovered in the second, nailing a 6-1 triumph to force a deciding third set.

Instead of having the momentum after an impressive win in the second set, Jones was caught flatfooted by the much smaller, but quicker Lee in the third set with the latter taking a commanding 4-0 lead.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI youth netter Rafael Jones imitates his idol Rafael Nadal's famous pose.

"When Raffy trailed at 0-4, I stood up and walked away from the playing court, saying 'that's it, Raffy will not be going to Fiji,' Rafael's father, John said.

Rafael's mother, Flor, was on Saipan during the tense match, called her husband and learned the bad news.

While his parents had given up, Rafael was busy motivating himself for one of the biggest comeback in his young tennis career.

"I told myself this is my last chance. I am turning 13, and would not be able to make it to Fiji until I turned 16 to join the boys' 18-and-under division. It's a make-or-break situation for me," Rafael said.

"I thought of all the time and efforts my coach (Jeff Race) had given me to get where I am now. I thought of my parents' sacrifices picking me up from school and dropping me to training sessions, and my own sacrifice, playing after school, and studying late after playing several hours a day. If I lose this game, all the things that we worked for in one year will be wasted," Rafael added.

When John returned to the court, Rafael was down by only two, 2-4, and he began to feel better. He was at his best feeling when his son pulled off a 7-5 triumph, ensuring

See HARD WORK on Page 42

Rotary teams told to settle dues or face elimination

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Organizers of the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League have given coaches/team representatives until the end of the regular season to settle their dues or face elimination in the youth caging competition.

In a letter to coaches/team representatives of nine squads, league coordinator Elias Rangamar said teams who will not be able to complete the payment for the entrance fee will not be able to play in the playoffs even it they make the list.

Only the Top 8 teams will advance to the next round. So far the list include the CNMI Junior Nationals, San Antonio Sixers, Rollers I, G-Stars, Kontenders, Suns, Southern Sonics, and the Chalan Kanoa Saints.

The playoffs will have a singe-elimination format and will not start until Oct. 19, as the regular season was extended from next week to Oct. 17.

See ROTARY on Page 42

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
GCA frontliner Dae Min Jeon flies high for a spike against MBA defenders in this bit of action yesterday in the 2008 COPSSA volleyball league. The Eagles won this game, 25-11, 25-22.

Eagles survive Storms with second set rally

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy shrugged off a stubborn second-set stand by Marianas Baptist Academy, 25-11, 25-22, to remain undefeated in the high school division of the 2008 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association volleyball league.

It was the Eagles' seventh victory in as many games and their second this season against the Storms, who sport a 5-2 win-loss record.

The Eagles quickly established a commanding 11-3 lead to easily prevail in the first set behind Dae Won Jeon all-around playmaking skills.

The towering 5-11 Jeon, who teamed up with Luther Taylor, Denise Das, Coleen Kinsella, M. Sakamoto, and Bethanie Batallones, almost single-handedly took the game over with his crisp spikes, booming serves, uncontested drop shots, excellent returns, not to mention a string of block shots.

As both teams sent in their second stringers in the second set, the Storms took control of the tempo of the game by racing to a 9-5 lead but they agonized with service errors.

Jeon's brother, Bae Min, had a couple of drop shots to put the Eagles within one point, 8-9 but the Storms fought back and headed to a second set win with its 18-14 lead.

See EAGLES on Page 42

CNMI cagers bow to Tahiti in quarters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Nationals faltered in their bid to advance to the semifinals of the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament after losing to Tahiti, 74-97, yesterday at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

A 33-15 second quarter helped Tahiti thwart the CNMI cagers and advance to the semifinals.

The CNMI was still leading, 18-17, at the start of the second period when

See CNMI on Page 42

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CNMI Junior Nationals center Jayvan Tarkong brings the ball down against a Tahitian defender during their game in the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament Wednesday night at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.